

## MILITARY

UN Command probing whether DMZ shooting violated Korean armistice  
**Page 3**

## WAR ON TERRORISM

US special ops troops turning to drones to remotely advise Iraqis  
**Page 4**

## FACES

Reflecting the times, musicians pen songs about quarantine life  
**Page 15**



**Dolphins HOF coach Don Shula dies at 90** » Back page

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## CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



# Getting back to business

Italy eases 2-month lockdown; leaders push vaccine effort

BY GEIR MOULSON  
AND NICOLE WINFIELD  
Associated Press

ROME — Millions of people were allowed to return to work in Italy on Monday as Europe's longest coronavirus lockdown started to ease, while the U.S. took halting steps to lift some of its own restrictions even as tens of thousands of new cases were reported every day.

In Washington, the Senate was convening for the first time since March, while dozens of people in Florida were waiting before sunrise for the 7 a.m. opening of Clearwater Beach. In South Dakota, a pork

processing plant took its first steps toward reopening after being shuttered after more than 800 employees were infected with coronavirus. Louisiana lawmakers were also restarting their legislature — even as they feuded over whether they should return at all.

Political battles have become increasingly embedded in coronavirus policy in the U.S. In Louisiana, Republican legislators irritated by Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards' decision to extend Louisiana's stay-at-home order through May 15 were eager to return to work.

SEE ITALY ON PAGE 7

## RELATED STORIES

Ramstein barbershop, beauty salon reopen amid coronavirus pandemic  
**Page 6**

Get the latest on the virus outbreak  
[stripes.com/coronavirus](https://stripes.com/coronavirus)

Commuters crowd Milan's Cadorna train station on Monday. More than 4 million Italians were able to return to work as restrictions eased Monday in the first European country to lock down in a bid to stem COVID-19 infections.

CLAUDIO FURLAN, LaPresse/AP

## US Navy enters Barents Sea for first time since the Cold War

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

Four U.S. Navy warships were operating Monday in the Barents Sea, marking the first time naval surface ships have maneuvered in the Arctic waterway north of Finland and Russia since the Cold War, the service said.

"In these challenging times, it is more important than ever that we maintain our steady drumbeat of operations across the European theater, while taking prudent measures to protect the health of our force," U.S. 6th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti said in a statement. "We remain committed to promoting regional security and stability, while building trust and reinforcing a foundation of Arctic readiness."

The push above the Arctic Circle is part of a Navy effort to muscle up in a region where Russia has invested heavily in recent years and where China also has declared itself a power with economic interests.

"U.S. Navy surface ships have not operated in the Barents since the mid-1980s," U.S. Naval Forces Europe said in a statement Monday. "Allied and partner navies must remain proficient in all operating environments to ensure the continued security and access to the seas."

Three destroyers — USS Donald Cook, USS Porter and USS Roosevelt — were joined by the combat support ship USNS Supply. The United Kingdom's HMS

SEE NAVY ON PAGE 3

The push above the Arctic Circle is part of a Navy effort to muscle up in a region where Russia has invested heavily in recent years.

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Wall Street moves past economic pain; stocks rise

Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Is Wall Street blind?

The global economy is in shambles, the coronavirus pandemic has killed more than 237,000 worldwide and 30 million Americans have lost their jobs, with the tallies all rising by the day.

Yet, the U.S. stock market just rocketed to its best month in a generation.

While it's most definitely wild, Wall Street is also a collection of investors who are continually

looking ahead, setting prices for stocks at the moment based on where they expect corporate profits and the economy will be a quarter or two into the future.

From February into late March, investors sent the S&P 500 down by nearly 34%, anticipating that the number of jobless workers would explode and the economy would tumble into recession. Then in April, as gruesome economic figures confirmed those fears, investors instead focused on a few strands of optimism for

the future.

The S&P 500 has surged 26.5% since hitting a low on March 23, which was the same week that the government reported a record number of U.S. workers filed for unemployment benefits.

Joe Seydl, capital markets economist at J.P. Morgan Private Bank, has noticed how most of the jobs lost in March were temporary furloughs, rather than permanent losses.

"That was a relative silver lining," he said.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)	
Euro costs (May 5)	\$1.07	Thailand (Baht)	0.9649
Dollar buys (May 5)	60.8878	Turkey (Lira)	32.41
British pound (May 5)	\$1.21	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
Japanese yen (May 5)	105.00	INTEREST RATES	
South Korean won (May 5)	1,196.00	Prime rate	3.25
Commercial rates		Discount rate	0.25
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771	Federal funds market rate	0.04
British pound	\$1.2430	3-month bill	0.10
Canada (Dollar)	1.4089	30-year bond	1.28
China (Yuan)	7.0625		
Denmark (Krone)	6.8303		
Egypt (Pound)	15.7948		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.0927/0.9152		
Hungary (Forint)	7.7526		
Israel (Shekel)	34.36		
Japan (Yen)	106.89		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3091		
Norway (Krone)	10.3954		
Philippines (Peso)	50.70		
Poland (Zloty)	4.18		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7584		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4175		
South Korea (Won)	1,225.36		

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

#### TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



#### TUESDAY IN EUROPE



#### WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

### TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup ..... 14  
Classified ..... 13  
Comics ..... 18  
Crossword ..... 18  
Faces ..... 15  
Opinion ..... 16-17  
Sports ..... 20-24

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## MILITARY

# UNC investigates if DMZ shooting violated armistice

BY KIM GAMEL  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Was it an accident? Or did North Korean soldiers fire at a South Korean guard post on purpose?

The United States-led United Nations Command sent a team to the tense Korean border area Monday to investigate whether the exchange of fire the day before violated the armistice agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

The UNC, which administers the Demilitarized Zone, said that no further comment would be issued "until the investigation is complete and the report has been provided to the appropriate authorities."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and South Korean military officials have already said that they believe the shooting was not intentional.

But some analysts suggested that it may have been a low-level provocation aimed at boosting the North's leverage in talks with the U.S. and South Korea.

North Korea, meanwhile, has not responded to a message sent via an inter-military communication line asking for an explanation, according to the South Korean Defense Ministry.

"It seems to be accidental, but South and North Korea need to be careful with each other because such an accident has the prospect to raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula," said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul.

The incident began Sunday morning when South Korean soldiers at a guard post in a central part of the Demilitarized Zone heard gunfire, then found four bullet holes on the wall of the guard post.

The South Koreans responded with 20 rounds of warning shots

and broadcast warnings, military officials said.

The UNC, which is led by Army Gen. Robert Abrams, dispatched a multinational special investigation team to the site on Monday.

The team was accompanied by Swedish and Swiss members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission who were acting as observers.

"The investigative team will assess the events that took place and produce a report based on their findings to determine if a violation of the Armistice occurred," the UNC said in a tweet.

The new mystery began two days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appeared at the ribbon-cutting for a new fertilizer factory, tamping down speculation about his health after a nearly three-week absence.

Defense Ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo said that North Korea had not responded to the South's message.

"We expressed concern about the seriousness of the present situation, said North Korea should explain what happened and called on Pyongyang to halt such behavior immediately," she added.

Jean Lee, director of the Korea program at the Washington, D.C.-based Wilson Center, said that the breakdown in communications was troubling.

"What we would not want to see is gunfire sparking an exchange that could escalate into deadly violence," she said. "While troops on the southern side responded with restraint this time, the ambiguity most certainly will have everyone in the DMZ on edge."

The DMZ, about 155 miles long and 2.5 miles wide, has often been a flashpoint in tensions between the two Koreas, and past violence has pushed the two countries to the brink of conflict.

The border is lined with barbed wire fences and filled with land mines with tens of thousands of



AARON KIDO/Stars and Stripes

**Buddhist prayer ribbons hang from a security fence in Paju, South Korea, near the Demilitarized Zone. The U.S.-led United Nations Command is investigating whether a shooting at the DMZ violated the armistice agreement.**

combat troops on both sides.

The two Koreas signed a military agreement in September 2018 calling for both sides to halt all hostile acts against each other and establishing a series of confidence-building measures.

The North, however, has conducted several short-range missile tests and artillery drills in recent months while expressing frustration over stalled nuclear talks with the U.S.

"'Accident' or not, North Korean shots at South Korea's GP violates the Sept. 19 inter-Korean military agreement and notable that Pyongyang hasn't yet picked up the phone or explained the incident," Duyeon Kim, a Seoul-based adviser with the International Crisis Group, said in a tweet.

Pompeo told ABC News "This Week" in an interview Sunday that the U.S. believes the shots "were accidental."

"The South Koreans did return fire. So far as we can tell, there was no loss of life on either side," he said.

South Korean military officials have also said that they believe the shooting was not intentional, noting that it was foggy in the area and the shooting occurred at a time when North Korean troops are believed to be having a shift change and testing their weapons.

Farming activity in the area also was said to be uninterrupted.

Chun In-bum, a retired South Korean lieutenant general who served on the DMZ as a battalion commander in the 1990s, said that it could have been an accidental discharge.

"The probability is that's what happened in my view," he said Monday in a telephone interview.

He dismissed a suggestion that the North Koreans may have been trying to send a message

by attacking the South Korean guard post.

"It was just a burst and then it ended," he said. "If they wanted to send us a message, I'm sure they would've done it with a bigger bang."

Other analysts said that the North may be trying to pressure South Korea to take its side and offer more economic assistance or coronavirus aid despite U.S.-led sanctions.

"Pyongyang may not have wanted to carry out a high-intensity provocation this time, so it may have only breached the inter-Korean agreement slightly," said Moon Keun Sik of the Korea Defense and Security Forum.

"Pyongyang might be trying to win cooperation from Seoul by bringing the South to the edge of crisis first, then easing the situation later," he added.

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## Navy: Latest move meant to fortify US position in Arctic region

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Kent also took part in maritime security operations, NAVEUR said.

In recent weeks, the U.S. military in Europe has sought to emphasize that operations are continuing, even as the services grapple with the coronavirus pandemic. While the virus has curtailed numerous exercises, the Navy in Europe has been busy in recent weeks in the "high north," the service said.

USS Porter, USS Donald Cook

and HMS Kent last week completed an anti-submarine warfare exercise in the Norwegian Sea. A U.S. submarine, as well as a P-8A Poseidon reconnaissance aircraft, also took part in the drills, the Navy said.

Countering Russia's submarines has become a focus for U.S. European Command. Over the years, Russia has modernized its undersea fleet and increased activity in the Arctic, drawing the attention of top U.S. commanders.

NAVEUR boss Adm. James



Nico Arias/Stars and Stripes

Foggo, speaking Thursday at the U.S. Naval Institute's 147th annual meeting, highlighted how 10 Russian submarines were simultaneously underway in the Arctic

and North Atlantic last fall.

"That number would have grabbed the attention of Lieutenant Foggo at the height of the Cold War," he said.

Russia has "taken an aggressive approach in the Arctic" and elsewhere, he added.

For example, Russia's new icebreaker, the Ivan Papanin, was constructed to carry Kalibr cruise missiles.

"Who puts missiles on icebreakers?" Foggo said. "We are seeing Russian navy surface ships and new hybrid Kilo-class

submarines operating more often and more widely, particularly in the Black Sea and eastern Mediterranean."

It was unclear how long the Navy's destroyers would be operating in the Barents.

The Navy said that it had notified the Russian Defense Ministry of the specific maneuvers to "avoid misperceptions, reduce risk and prevent inadvertent escalation."

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## WAR ON TERRORISM

# US troops use drones to remotely train Iraqis

By CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

U.S. special operations troops with the anti-Islamic State coalition have been using drones to train security forces in Iraq while physically distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

Advisers with Special Operations Joint Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve use the remotely piloted aircraft to record the training exercises, then review the footage and provide feedback on the Iraqi troops' tactics, a coalition official said Friday.

"This allows safe distance observation ... while still improving capabilities to continue the fight against terrorism," a special operations partner-force adviser in northern Iraq said in an email.

The tactical drones are similar to those found on civilian shelves, but specific details of the type and their capabilities could not be discussed, said the officer, whose name and tactical unit were with-

held per military policy for security reasons.

Coalition troops have been observing various coronavirus prevention measures, to include a 14-day quarantine before taking part in daily operations, working in shifts to spread out the workforce and using teleconferencing to reduce in-person meetings, Operation Inherent Resolve said last month.

The coalition also pulled trainers from the country earlier this year as Iraq halted military training to focus on battling the coronavirus. But special operations advisers "at the tactical level" came up with the idea for using drones to continue observing and advising, the unnamed adviser said.

"As far as I know, it hasn't been done before here in the recent past," the officer said.

The U.S.-led coalition has also used teleconferencing to support Iraqi forces on anti-ISIS combat operations that continue in spite

of the virus, officials said. More than 2,200 people in Iraq have tested positive for the virus and 95 have died from complications related to the disease it causes, World Health Organization data showed Monday.

"The fight is not over despite COVID-19," said Maj. Gen. Eric Hill, commanding general for SOJTF-OIR, in a statement last month.

Last week, coalition aircraft struck caves and tunnels where militants were believed to be hiding out in the country's northern Hamrin Mountains, said a coalition military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity Friday because was not authorized to discuss the matter.

Operations will continue through the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which ends in late May, the official said.

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ANGEL RUSZKIEWICZ/U.S. Army

Cameron Carollo, a Defense Department contractor, operates a quadcopter during an unmanned aerial system training exercise at Irbil Air Base in the Kurdistan region of Iraq on April 24.

## Islamic State prisoners agree to end riot in Syria jail

By BASSEM MROUE  
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Imprisoned members of the Islamic State rioted and took control of a prison in northeast Syria for several hours until Kurdish-led authorities negotiated an end to the unrest Sunday.

The riot began Saturday at a prison in the city of Hassakeh, one of the largest facilities where ISIS members are held, and control was reestablished Sunday evening, said Kuno Gabriel, a spokesman for the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces.

A two-day riot and takeover of the same prison in late March allowed four extremists to escape, although they were caught a day later. It was one of the most serious uprisings by the prisoners since ISIS was defeated a year ago when the SDF seized control of the last sliver of land controlled by the extremists in eastern Syria.

Kurdish authorities currently operate more than two dozen detention facilities scattered across northeastern Syria, holding about 10,000 ISIS fighters. Among the detainees are some 2,000 foreigners whose home countries have refused to repatriate them,



HADI MUZZAN/AP

An Iraqi soldier searches for Islamic State militants during 2019 search operation in Taramiyah, north of Baghdad, Iraq. ISIS prisoners rioting in a Syria prison have agreed to end the unrest.

including about 800 Europeans. Gabriel said SDF officials and members of the U.S.-led coalition had taken part in talks with the prisoners. At the height of

the riots, he said Kurdish special forces and anti-terrorist units took part in the operations to try to get the situation under control. He gave no further details and

did not say how many prisoners were involved or if there were any casualties.

U.S. military helicopters flew over the prison Sunday, accord-

ing to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, and North Press Agency, a media platform operating in the Kurdish-administered areas.

Gabriel said the U.S.-led coalition and the international community bear responsibility for finding solutions for ISIS detainees and need to give more support to security and living conditions at the prisons.

A recent resurgence of ISIS attacks in both Syria and Iraq has raised concerns that the militant group is taking advantage of governments absorbed in tackling the coronavirus pandemic and the ensuing slide into economic chaos.

It was not immediately clear if Sunday's prison riot was triggered by concerns about the coronavirus's potential spread in the facility.

Last month, the U.S.-led coalition said it gave hygiene and medical supplies to detention facilities across northeastern Syria, including hand-washing stations, disinfectant wipes, face masks and examination gloves.

One coronavirus death was reported in Kurdish-held areas of Syria in April.

## Gunmen kill 9 police in recaptured, but unruly south Syria village

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Unknown gunmen killed nine Syrian policemen on Monday in a southern village close to the border with Jordan, state media and an opposition war monitor said.

The attack occurred in the

province of Daraa where Syria's anti-government uprising began in March 2011 before morphing into a civil war that has killed more than 400,000 people and displaced half the country's population.

Daraa has become rife with assassinations and attacks targeting

government troops who retook the area from rebels in July 2018.

Syria's state news agency SANA said that the nine policemen were killed in the village of Muzayreeb by armed gunmen who attacked them while they were on duty. It listed the names of the dead policemen without giving further

details.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, reported that a group of unknown gunmen kidnapped the nine policemen before shooting them dead and leaving their bodies in one of the village's streets.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack. Sleeper cells of the Islamic State have been recently increasing their attacks in eastern Syria. Last month ISIS claimed responsibility for the killing of two Syrian army officers in the same province.

## MILITARY

# FBI: Airman who fled Texas base had threatened his command

By CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

An airman who police say scuffled with officials at a Texas air base before arming himself and fleeing over the perimeter fence had threatened his chain of command and refused to hand over his firearms, a criminal complaint said.

A security forces patrolman and two other Dyess Air Force Base officials visited the on-base home of Erland Injerd on April 22 to ask him to surrender the weapons after he sent his command a threatening email, FBI agent Sean E. Means said in the complaint filed with the U.S. District of Northern Texas, days after the incident.

Injerd, 37, has been charged with assaulting a federal agent after refusing to comply with the order, the complaint said. He is a senior airman and weather forecaster at the base, the military's universal email address list showed.

Injerd was still at large Monday, said Senior Airman Kylee Gardner, a base spokesperson. The FBI, U.S. Marshals Service and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations are working on the case, she said via email.



Injerd

After refusing the order from security forces officer John Breed to surrender his weapons, Injerd began cursing at him and two other officials, Senior Master Sgt. Klexton Jett and Master Sgt. Derek L. Krahn, the complaint said. He then resisted when Breed told him to turn around and put his hands behind his back, striking the patrolman in the face. Jett and Krahn tried to detain him, but all four men "ended up on the ground," the court document stated.

"Injerd intentionally poked his finger in Officer Breed's right eye and struck SMSgt. Jett in the knee," knowing that Jett had recently had knee surgery, the complaint alleged.

The airman's wife then opened the front door and Injerd fled inside.

The information in the court document was based on Means' observations, interviews with witnesses and information from agent Karen L. Peterson of the base's OSI

detachment.

The 7th Security Forces Squadron and Abilene police responded when Breed called for backup, but Injerd escaped through a basement window, scaled the base fence and fled into the woods. A magistrate judge issued an arrest warrant for Injerd on April 24, court records show.

Officials believe Injerd was armed when he fled, though the base's commander said in a Facebook video April 24 that the fugitive airman was not believed to pose a "specific threat" to the Dyess community.

"Just in case, we have increased our security forces presence throughout the base," said Col. Ed Sumangil, commander of the 7th Bomb Wing, the host unit at the base of over 13,000 personnel. "We will especially remain active on base housing."

Injerd, who is described as a white male with short or shaved brown hair, was last seen wearing a long-sleeved black shirt with blue jeans. Sumangil asked anyone who might see someone matching his description to call law enforcement.

Stars and Stripes reporter Brian Ferguson contributed to this report.  
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## Bases earn 2 of the Navy's highest awards

By ERIKA I. RITCHIE  
The Orange County Register

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, Calif., and its Fallbrook and Norco bases received two of the Navy's top awards recognizing the command for its efforts at safety and protecting the environment.

The awards — two of the Navy's most prestigious — were handed out back-to-back. The Seal Beach base and its detachments in Fallbrook and Norco were honored with the 2019 Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award on April 22. And, the day before, base officials learned the command also won the 2019 Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation.

The awards are given annually among 30 other Naval bases of similar size. While this command frequently wins a higher percentage of awards Navy-wide, it hasn't won the two awards back-to-back.

"These awards are a perfect example that what we do matters, but how we do it matters even more," said Capt. Jason Sherman, base commander. "I'm extremely proud of the work we accomplish here, and I'm not at all surprised that we have been once again recognized at such a high level."

The 5,000-acre Seal Beach installation is responsible for weapons storage, loading and maintenance for ships of the United States Pacific Fleet.

Officials at the base, which provides ammunition to about 40 ships a year, received authorization from state and federal groups last summer to move forward with plans for a \$150 million renovation of their ammunition pier. The Navy expects to service more ships once the project is complete. The new pier — scheduled for completion in 2025 — will allow larger ships to more safely enter Anaheim Bay for loading and unloading.

The Fallbrook base, with 8,000 acres, is also a munition storage facility. The Norco base, with 700 acres, does assessments for weapons systems and calibrations.

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## High and tight's back at Ramstein

'It makes it feel like you're in the military again,' airman says of haircut

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — For the first time in six weeks, airmen were able to do something they once took for granted: get a haircut.

On Monday, the barbershop at the Kaiserslautern Military Community Center welcomed its first customers since closing in mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Air Force leaders at Ramstein authorized the base barbershops and beauty salon to open after Germany said its hairdressers and barbers could reopen Monday, as part of a plan to gradually lift the country's lockdown.

U.S. military bases in Germany are also reopening services and facilities in phases, but what base personnel can expect to see available varies by location and even by military service.

While Air Force personnel at Ramstein can get a haircut with an appointment at the base mall, soldiers largely remain restricted.

"In general, no, Soldiers should not travel to Ramstein to use the barber shop," U.S. Army Europe said in a statement Monday, following a Stars and Stripes query.

USAREUR said senior officers and garrison commanders "will determine when and under what conditions or mitigating measures barber shops will reopen on Army installations," noting that personnel should expect "we will lag behind the host nation for up to two weeks to gauge the impact on infection rate as we reopen services."

Hairdressers in Germany were ordered to close March 23 and U.S. military bases in Germany shut down their barbershops and other nonessential facilities around the same time.

Spangdahlem plans to open its barbershops May 18, a base official said Monday.

Strict protective measures are in place at the KMCC barber shop, where every other barber chair must be empty, and both customer and stylist have to wear face masks. A shampoo prior to a haircut is now mandatory and customers must be covered in disposable plastic gowns.

Airmen on Monday said they didn't mind the extra rules. They said were just happy to have a professional working the clippers.

"It is super nice to lose about a pound of hair," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Knupp of the 721st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Ramstein. "It makes it feel like you're in the military again."

For Knupp and Senior Airman Jeremiah Lamb, their turn in the barber chair marked their first haircuts in about two months, they said. "Oh, it feels great," said Lamb, deployed to Ramstein from Travis Air Force Base, Calif. "I defi-



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Hairdresser Kaltrian Ibrji shaves off Senior Airman Jeremiah Lamb's hair Monday on Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The base began reopening its haircut facilities after being closed for about six weeks.



Stylist Claudia Oster finishes giving Staff Sgt. Kyle Knupp a haircut Monday as the barbershop at the Kaiserslautern Military Community Center welcomed its first customers since mid-March.

nately needed it."

The KMCC barbershop was booked for the day Monday with 63 appointments.

Hairdresser Kaltrina Ibrji said it was nice to finally get out of the house and come to work, though she and her co-workers were only working half-day shifts for the time being.

"It's stressful but we hope for a better day," she said. Wearing face masks and ensuring everything is disinfected takes more time, but "it's clean," she said. "It's better like this."

Base services and facilities across Germany also are slowly reopening, including the golf courses at Baumholder and Ramstein. The Woodlawn Golf Course at Ramstein has fewer tee times and allows only one person per cart, among other adjustments.

Java Cafes at Baumholder, Sembach, Landstuhl, Kleber and Rhine Ordnance Barracks opened again Monday but for takeout service only.

The Army's Baumholder and Kaiserslautern Outdoor Rec-

reation is open again, allowing customers to rent bikes, outdoor sports gear, fishing equipment and even bouncy castles.

At least one base library announced a reopening. Patch Library at Stuttgart said it will begin accepting requests by email Tuesday, with patrons able to place orders for up to 10 items to be picked up, according to information on the Stuttgart Family and MWR website.

Stars and Stripes reporter John Vandiver contributed to this report. svan.jennifer@stripes.com Twitter: @stripesktown

## A muted return home for Comfort

By RYAN MURPHY  
The Virginian-Pilot

Most homecomings see a tightly packed throng of families crowding the gate at the end of the pier, waving signs and waiting for a loved one to finally step off the ship.

Instead, the USNS Comfort sidled up to Pier 12 at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., to no fanfare at all. Any spouses or kids there to pick up Mom or Dad were relegated to their cars to maintain social distancing.

The hulking white hospital ship emblazoned with red crosses spent the last month in New York City, serving as an overflow hospital as the city battles an expansive coronavirus outbreak that has left more than 13,000 there dead.

The Comfort arrived home to Norfolk early Saturday morning after spending late Friday moored just outside Hampton Roads Harbor while the ship was disinfected and the crew tested for the virus.

The ship treated 182 patients while in New York, commanding officers said Saturday, about 70% of which were highly acute coronavirus patients.

"We saw everything that (New York hospitals) saw," Capt. Patrick Amersbach, who commands the Comfort's medical personnel, said Saturday. "We were the busiest ICU in the Department of Defense over the past month."

They had 25 patients on ventilators and cases with multiple organ failure, necessitating a lot of one-on-one attention from the ship's medical staff, Amersbach said.

Many of the nearly 1,200 sailors returning on the Comfort may not even be going directly home.

Capt. Joseph O'Brien, the mission commander of Task Force New York City, said Saturday that every sailor leaving the ship will spend the next 14 days under quarantine based on guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including having their own room in which to sleep and maintain appropriate social distancing.

Some can abide by those guidelines at home, while those who can't will be put up in a hotel or barracks by the Navy for 14 days, at the end of which they will be tested again, O'Brien said.

Instead of eager husbands and wives waiting with toddlers and new babies, a caravan of white buses were lined up at the end of the pier to take crew members to their quarantine quarters.

"It's different, yeah, but everything's different," O'Brien said of the muted homecoming.



# VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Italy: As one of hardest-hit countries slowly reopens, many worry of second wave

### FROM FRONT PAGE

But Democrats saw things differently: "It could be a devastating blow to the strides made and to the safety of our residents, our staff and members if we returned to business as usual prematurely," Democratic leaders wrote in a letter.

More than 29,000 people in Louisiana have tested positive for the coronavirus, and 1,969 people have died, according to state health department data released Sunday. The true number of infections is thought to be far higher.

With pressure growing in many countries for more measures to restart the economy, politicians also were trying to boost funding for research into a vaccine for COVID-19. There are hopes that one could be available in months, but many scientists warn it could take much longer.

Italy, the first European country hit by the pandemic and a nation with one of the world's highest death tolls, started stirring after its two-month shutdown. In all, 4.4 million Italians were able to return to work, and restrictions on movement eased.

Traffic in downtown Rome peaked, and construction sites and manufacturing operations resumed, parks reopened and flower vendors returned to the Campo dei Fiori market for the first time since March 11.

"It's something that brings happiness and joy, and people have been missing that these days," vendor Stefano Fulvi said. He doesn't expect to break even anytime soon, "but you have to take the risk at some point."

Europeans' new-found freedoms are limited as officials are wary of setting off a second wave of infections.

In Italy, mourners were able to attend funerals, but services were limited to 15 people and there was still no word on when Masses will resume. Restaurants

scrubbed their floors in preparation for take-out service, but sit-down service was several weeks away.

Southern Italy braced for the return of students and workers who were trapped in the hard-hit north when the lockdown took effect. Some regional governors said they would require anyone arriving home to go into quarantine for two weeks.

"It's a new page that we must write together, with trust and responsibility," Premier Giuseppe Conte said in a message to Italians.

Belgium allowed some companies to open offices to employees, though remote work was still encouraged. Like Italians, Greeks, Spaniards and many others in Europe, Belgians were told to wear masks on public transport.

Italians still have to carry certifications explaining why they are out. Greece, which began lifting its seven-week lockdown Monday, dropped a similar requirement for people to send a text message or carry a self-written permit justifying being outdoors.

People in hard-hit Spain ventured out for the first time for haircuts or food take-outs, but many small shops were still closed as owners worked on meeting strict health and hygiene guidelines. Neighboring Portugal also eased its confinement measures and allowed small stores to open.

On Europe's western edge, Iceland reopened many of its businesses after the country tamed its virus outbreak.

In the Middle East, Lebanon was allowing restaurants to open at 30% capacity during the day starting Monday. But many business owners said they won't reopen because they would be losing more money if they operate under such restrictions in a faltering economy. Cafes, clubs and bars have been ordered to stay shut through June.

India allowed some economic



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP

A commuter has his temperature read at Termini station in Rome, on Monday.



LUCA BRUNO/AP

A safety guard checks passengers with a thermo scanner as they arrive at the Cadorna railway station, in Milan, Italy, on Monday.

activities to resume after a five-week halt, even as the pace of infections has slightly accelerated. The lockdown has achieved a slowdown in the spread of the virus but has caused immense hardship for India's poor.

An estimated 1.5 million South Africans returned to work after a five-week lockdown. The mining, manufacturing and select retail sectors began reopening with up to 30% of their workforce. Trains, buses and private minibus taxis resumed operations with reduced

occupancy, and all South Africans must wear face masks in public.

Russia reported a steady rise in the number of infections, fueling concerns the nation's hospitals could be overwhelmed. Authorities say that broader testing has contributed to a surge. Russia's economy has been partially shut since late March, and lockdown measures have been extended through May 11.

Governments around the world have reported 3.5 million infections and more than 247,000

deaths, including more than 67,000 dead in the United States, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University. Deliberately concealed outbreaks, low testing rates and the severe strain the disease has placed on health care systems mean the true scale of the pandemic is undoubtedly much greater.

Developing a vaccine will be the key to returning to a less restricted everyday life. On Monday, an alliance of world leaders was holding a virtual summit hoping to drum up around 4 billion euros for vaccine research, some 2 billion euros for treatments and 1.5 billion euros for testing. Officials say that amount is just the start.

The leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Norway and top European Union officials said that money raised will be channeled mostly through recognized global health organizations. The EU's executive Commission had hoped that the United States would take part, but it remained unclear what role, if any, Washington might play in the donor conference.

Germany's health minister said there are "promising" developments but warned that developing vaccines is one of the biggest challenges in medicine.

## Boeing over budget on new Air Force One planes due to pandemic

BY ROSE L. THAYER  
Stars and Stripes

Boeing expects a cost overrun of \$168 million on the new Air Force One planes caused by work-from-home staffing problems during the coronavirus pandemic, according to a top official at the aerospace company.

However, the company still expects the two planes to be operational by 2024, said Greg Smith, Boeing executive vice president of enterprise operations and chief financial officer. Smith also told reporters last week that the planes arrived in San Antonio, Texas, about two months ago for an extensive customization process to convert the aircraft into secure, mobile command centers.

"As we have had folks working virtually, particularly on the engineering side, as

well as that has gone, it certainly has created some inefficiencies that has caused us to reevaluate our estimate to complete those efforts," he said.

A company spokeswoman would not elaborate on what exactly caused the delays and referred only to Smith's comments.

Smith said the Air Force One program was one of a number of programs impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. But he said some of those funds could be recouped through the coronavirus aid package passed in March by Congress, which set aside about \$500 billion for loans to help big corporations impacted by the virus. About \$17 billion of that was largely set aside for Boeing, the New York Times reported.

The replacement of the Air Force One aircraft began in 2011 and delivery of the planes was expected to cost about \$5.3 bil-

lion. President Donald Trump announced in July 2018, he had renegotiated the contract to a fixed \$3.9 billion for delivery of the two planes.

Because of the fixed contract, the additional \$168 million is at Boeing's expense, not the Air Force.

However, the total acquisition of the new planes is still expected to cost the Air Force \$5.3 billion, said Ann Stefaneck, spokeswoman for the Air Force. But that price encompasses all costs associated with the aircraft beyond receiving two "presidential, mission-ready aircraft."

Last month, the Air Force awarded Boeing an \$84 million contract to modify commercial manuals for the planes. "It is typical for the tech manuals to be a separate contract," and is part of the total expected cost, Stefaneck said.

Both planes are 747-8 aircraft that, when used commercially, can carry more than 400 passengers, according to Boeing's website. To become Air Force One-ready, personnel from Boeing and the Air Force will make electrical power upgrades, install a mission communication system, a medical facility, an executive interior and autonomous ground operations capabilities, according to a March 11 news release from the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. They are set to be in use for 30 years.

The current planes began service in 1990 under President George H.W. Bush and feature 4,000 square feet on three levels, according to the White House website.

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump speaks during a Fox News virtual town hall from the Lincoln Memorial on in Washington, co-moderated by FOX News anchors Martha MacCallum, left, and Bret Baier.

## Trump ups death projection, pushes economic reopening

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Anxious to spur an economic recovery without risking lives, President Donald Trump insisted that “you can satisfy both” — see states gradually lift lockdowns while also protecting people from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 67,000 Americans.

The president, fielding questions from Americans Sunday night in a virtual town hall from the Lincoln Memorial, acknowledged valid fears on both sides of the issue. Some people are worried about getting sick, while others are reeling from lost jobs and livelihoods.

Trump increased his projection for the total U.S. death toll to as many as 100,000 — up by as much as 40,000 from what he had suggested just a few weeks ago.

“Look, we’re going to lose anywhere from 75,000, 80,000 to 100,000 people,” Trump said. “That’s a horrible thing. We shouldn’t lose one person out

of this. This should have been stopped in China.”

But he struck a note of urgency to restart the nation’s economy, declaring, “We have to get it back open safely, but as quickly as possible.”

After more than a month of being cooped up at the White House, Trump returned from a weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland for the virtual town hall hosted by Fox News Channel.

As concerns mounted for his reelection bid, Trump stuck to his relentlessly optimistic view of the nation’s ability to rebound soon.

“It is all working out,” Trump said. “It is horrible to go through, but it is working out.”

Many public health experts believe that the nation cannot safely reopen fully until a vaccine is developed. Trump declared Sunday that he believed one could be available by year’s end.

U.S. public health officials have said that a vaccine is probably a

year to 18 months away. But Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s leading expert on infectious diseases and member of the White House coronavirus task force, said in late April that it is conceivable, if a vaccine is soon developed, that it could be in wide distribution as early as January.

Though the administration’s handling of the pandemic, particularly its ability to conduct widespread testing, has come under fierce scrutiny, the president tried to shift the blame to China and said that the U.S. was ready to begin reopening.

“I’ll tell you one thing. We did the right thing and I really believe we saved a million-and-a-half lives,” the president said. But he also broke with the assessment of his senior adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, saying that it was “too soon to say” the federal government had overseen a “success story.”

## DHS report: China hid virus severity to hoard supplies

By WILL WEISSERT  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials believe that China covered up the extent of the coronavirus outbreak — and how contagious the disease is — to stock up on medical supplies needed to respond to it, intelligence documents show.

Chinese leaders “intentionally concealed the severity” of the pandemic from the world in early January, according to a four-page Department of Homeland Security intelligence report dated May 1 and obtained by The Associated Press. The revelation comes as the Trump administration has intensified its criticism of China, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo saying Sunday that the country was responsible for the spread of the disease and must be held accountable.

The sharper rhetoric coincides with administration critics saying that the government’s response to the virus was slow and inadequate. President Donald Trump’s political opponents have accused him of lashing out at China, a geopolitical foe but critical U.S. trade partner, in an attempt to deflect criticism at home.

Not classified but marked “for official use only,” the DHS analysis states that, while downplaying the severity of the coronavirus, China increased imports and decreased exports of medical supplies. It attempted to cover up doing so by “denying there were export restrictions and obfuscating and delaying provision of its trade data,” the analysis states.

The report also said China held off informing the World Health Organization that the coronavirus “was a contagion” for much of January so it could order medical supplies from abroad — and that its exports of face masks and surgical gowns and gloves increased sharply.

Those conclusions are based on the 95% probability that China’s changes in imports and export behavior were not within normal range, according to the report.

Chinese officials muffled doctors who warned about the virus early on and repeatedly downplayed the threat of the outbreak. Many of the Chinese government’s missteps, however, appear to have been due to bureaucratic hurdles, tight controls on information and officials hesitant to report bad news. There is no public evidence to suggest that it was an intentional plot to buy up the world’s medical supplies.

In a tweet on Sunday, the president appeared to blame U.S. intelligence officials for not making clearer sooner just how dangerous a potential coronavirus outbreak could be. Trump has been defensive over whether he failed to act after receiving early warnings from intelligence officials and others about the coronavirus and its potential impact.

“Intelligence has just reported to me that I was correct, and that they did NOT bring up the Coronavirus subject matter until late into January, just prior to my banning China from the U.S.,” Trump wrote without citing specifics. “Also, they only spoke of the Virus in a very non-threatening, or matter of fact, manner.”

Beijing has repeatedly pushed back on U.S. accusations that the outbreak was China’s fault, pointing to many missteps made by American officials in their own fight against the outbreak. China’s public announcement on Jan. 20 that the virus was transmissible from person to person left the U.S. nearly two months to prepare for the pandemic, during which the U.S. government failed to bolster medical supplies and deployed flawed testing kits.

## US to rein in flood of blood tests after lax oversight

By MATTHEW PERRONE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. regulators Monday pulled back a decision that allowed scores of coronavirus blood tests to hit the market without first providing proof that they worked.

The Food and Drug Administration said that it took the action because some sellers have made false claims about the tests and their accuracy. Companies will now have to show that their tests work or risk having them pulled

from the market.

Under pressure to increase testing options, the FDA in March essentially let companies begin selling tests as long as they told the agency their plans and provided disclaimers, including that they were not FDA-approved. The policy was meant to allow “flexibility” needed to quickly ramp up production, officials said.

“However, flexibility never meant we would allow fraud,” Dr. Anand Shah, an FDA deputy commissioner, said in a statement. “We unfortunately see unscrupu-

lous actors marketing fraudulent test kits and using the pandemic as an opportunity to take advantage of Americans.”

Blood tests are different from the nasal swab tests currently used to diagnose active COVID-19 infections. Instead, the tests look for blood proteins called antibodies, which the body produces days or weeks after fighting an infection. Most use a finger-prick of blood on a test strip.

The revised policy follows weeks of criticism from doctors, lab specialists and members of

Congress who said that the FDA’s lack of oversight created a Wild West of unregulated tests.

The agency acknowledged Monday that there have been problems with the 160 tests that have been launched in the U.S. Some companies have claimed that their tests can be used at home, although the FDA has not allowed that use. Others have made unsubstantiated claims about their accuracy. Some U.S. hospitals and local governments have reported buying tests that turned out to be

inaccurate or frauds.

So far, the FDA has granted authorization to 11 antibody tests, meaning that their methods, materials and accuracy passed muster with agency regulators. Companies with test kits currently on the market without FDA authorization will now be required to submit formal applications to regulators within 10 business days. Companies that launch at a later date will have 10 days to turn over their applications after validating their tests.



## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## In Asia, some schools, businesses reopen

Associated Press

**BANGKOK** — Students across Vietnam started returning to their classrooms Monday that had been closed to curb the coronavirus.

"I am so excited to go back to school, to be with my teachers and my classmates after three months," said Chu Quang Anh, a sixth-grade student at Dinh Cong secondary school in Hanoi.

Students are required to wear masks, among other measures to minimize the spread of the virus.

Vietnam has confirmed 271 coronavirus cases. It has not reported any new case in the community for nearly three weeks.

All educational institutions were closed at the beginning of February when the first cases were reported in the country and all learning was moved online. Last month, the country imposed travel restrictions and closed businesses for three weeks.

Elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region, for the first time since mid-March, New Zealand reported no new cases of the coronavirus. It's an indication the country's bold strategy of trying to eliminate the virus is working. New Zealand closed its borders and imposed a strict monthlong lockdown after the outbreak



VINCENT THIAN/AP

**Customers have breakfast at a restaurant in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Monday. Many business sectors reopened Monday in some parts of Malaysia since a partial coronavirus lockdown began March 18.**

began. It eased the rules a little last week to help reopen the economy. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said a decision would be made next Monday on whether to ease the rules further.

Meanwhile, many business sectors reopened in parts of Malaysia as Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's government sought to balance curbing the virus and

reviving the hard-hit economy. But the move has split public opinion amid fears that the sudden reopening of economic activities could spark a new wave of infections. Nine of the country's 13 states either refused to reopen or restricted the list of businesses that can operate. Mass gatherings and interstate travel remain banned. Virus cases have dropped

sharply in recent weeks but rose slightly over the weekend.

In Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Monday that he will extend Japan's coronavirus state of emergency by about a month. Abe said the number of new cases has not declined enough and hospitals remain overburdened. He declared the state of emergency on April 7, initially only for Tokyo and six other urban prefectures, but later extended it to the entire nation. He asked people to voluntarily reduce social interactions by up to 80%, but stopped short of asking businesses to close. Japan has more than 15,000 cases with 510 deaths.

South Korea, however, says it will start allowing students to return to their classrooms next week amid signs that its coronavirus outbreak is waning. Education Minister Yoo Eun-hae said Monday that high school seniors will return on May 13 and students in lower grades in phased steps starting May 20. On Monday, South Korea reported eight new cases, taking its total to 10,801.

India has relaxed some lockdown restrictions as the pace of infections has slightly acceler-

ated. On Monday some economic activities resumed after a near-total 5-week halt. Normal life, albeit with masks, social distancing and stringent hygiene standards, has started to return in low-risk areas, while constraints on movement and work continues elsewhere. India has about 42,500 confirmed cases, including 1,373 deaths. Experts warn that the virus has yet to peak.

Bangladesh has extended its nationwide lockdown by nearly two weeks to May 16. The extension came as the nation crossed the 10,000 mark of infections.

In Indonesia, officials have stepped up measures in anticipation of an influx of migrant workers returning from abroad either to celebrate Ramadan with family or because they have been affected by the pandemic. President Joko Widodo raised concerns at Monday's Cabinet meeting about possible imported cases among returnees. He called for strict health screenings for returnees and 14-day quarantines.

China reported three new virus cases, all brought from overseas, and no new deaths. It said just 481 people remain in hospitals with about 1,000 under monitoring and isolation.

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK



RON HARRIS/AP

Alexander Faigen, left, and Jeffrey James, right, both of Augusta University's Dental College of Georgia, discuss the 3D printing process for nasal swabs in August, Ga.

## Georgia deploys 3D printers, Guard units in testing scramble

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Seeing a chance to help amid a shortage of kits to test people for the coronavirus, Dr. Jeffrey James decorated a 3D printer at the dental college where he teaches to churning out nasal swabs at a rate of 300 per day.

Then Georgia officials working with Gov. Brian Kemp heard about the project. They asked James if he could crank up swab production even more — to 5,000 daily.

"I said yes," James recalled, "then I left the meeting and had a panic attack."

Now seven printers with names like Mighty Mouse and Sonic 1 and 2 hum constantly in a room on the third floor of Augusta University's dental school. Volunteering dental residents, endodontists, orthodontists and oral surgeons rotate between two daily 12-hour shifts, even on weekends, to meet the demand.

The production push is one way Georgia is scrambling to catch

up on COVID-19 testing after the Republican governor lifted shelter-at-home orders for most people and allowed hair salons, gyms, tattoo parlors and bowling alleys to reopen and restaurants to resume dine-in service.

There have been signs of improvement. On April 20, the total number of people tested in Georgia was just over 84,300. By Sunday, it had more than doubled to 174,800, according to the state Department of Public Health. Compared with other states, Georgia now ranks in the bottom 20 for per capita testing. It had previously been in the bottom 10.

Kemp touted more than 20,000 new tests reported Thursday — the most Georgia had seen in a single day — and nearly 13,000 new tests Tuesday. But those figures don't reflect sustained daily testing, which still fluctuates greatly. During the same week, Georgia reported fewer than 4,000 new tests on April 27 and Wednesday.

"If they can do 13,000 a day, every day, then from purely a

numbers perspective that's a great place to be," said Dr. Harry J. Heiman, a professor of public health at Georgia State University in Atlanta. "Am I seeing a trend where it seems we're getting where we need to be? My candid answer is no."

As part of Georgia's recent expansion effort, the National Guard, already tasked with disinfecting nursing homes across Georgia, has deployed 10 teams capable of administering 1,500 tests daily to long-term care facilities and other coronavirus hotspots.

About 30 Guard troops sent to Augusta University have turned a classroom into a call center where citizen-soldiers in fatigues and boots are manning phones to schedule testing appointments for people showing symptoms. Those patients are being referred by clinicians at the university who screen them using a cellphone app. Georgia now operates 49 drive-thru testing sites statewide.

## Nursing homes seek protection from lawsuits

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Faced with 20,000 coronavirus deaths and counting, the nation's nursing homes are pushing back against a potential flood of lawsuits with a sweeping lobbying effort to get states to grant them emergency protection from claims of inadequate care.

At least 15 states have enacted laws or governors' orders that explicitly or apparently provide nursing homes and long-term care facilities with some protection from lawsuits arising from the crisis. And in the case of New York, which leads the nation in deaths in such facilities, a lobbying group wrote the first draft of a measure that apparently makes it the only state with specific protection from both civil lawsuits and criminal prosecution.

Now the industry is forging ahead with a campaign to get other states on board with a simple argument: This was an unprecedented crisis and nursing homes should not be liable for events beyond their control, such as shortages of protective equipment and testing, shifting directives from authorities and sicknesses that have decimated staffs.

"As our care providers make these difficult decisions, they need to know they will not be prosecuted or persecuted," read a letter sent this month from several major hospital and nursing home groups to their next big goal, California, where Gov. Gavin Newsom has yet to make a decision. Other states in their sights include Florida, Pennsylvania and Missouri.

Watchdogs, patient advocates

and lawyers have argued that immunity orders are misguided. At a time when the crisis is laying bare such chronic industry problems as staffing shortages and poor infection control, they have said that legal liability is the last safety net to keep facilities accountable.

They also contend that nursing homes are taking advantage of the crisis to protect their bottom lines. Almost 70% of the nation's more than 15,000 nursing homes are run by for-profit companies, and hundreds have been bought and sold in recent years by private-equity firms.

"What you're really looking at is an industry that always wanted immunity and now has the opportunity to ask for it under the cloak of saying, 'Let's protect our heroes,'" said Mike Dark, an attorney for California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform.

"This has very little to do with the hard work being done by health care providers, and everything to do with protecting the financial interests of these big operators," he said.

Nationally, the lobbying effort is being led by the American Health Care Association, which represents nearly all of the nation's nursing homes and has spent \$23 million on lobbying efforts in the past six years.

While the federal government has yet to release numbers on how the coronavirus has ravaged the industry, The Associated Press has been keeping its own tally based on state health departments and media reports, finding 20,058 deaths in nursing homes and long-term care facilities nationwide.

## In a time of COVID-19, 'Obamacare' is still part of the action

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — COVID-19 could have stamped a person "uninsurable" if not for the Affordable Care Act. The ban on insurers using preexisting conditions to deny coverage is a key part of the Obama-era law that the Trump administration still seeks to overturn.

Without the law, people who recovered from COVID-19 and tried to purchase an individual health insurance policy could be turned down, charged higher premiums or have follow-up care excluded from coverage. Those considered vulnerable because of conditions such as respiratory problems or early-stage diabetes would have run into a wall of in-

surer suspicion.

Yet as defenders of the ACA submit written arguments to the Supreme Court next week countering the latest challenge to its existence, the Trump administration remains adamant that former President Barack Obama's health law, known as "Obamacare," must go.

"A global pandemic does not change what Americans know: Obamacare has been an unlawful failure and further illustrates the need to focus on patient care," White House spokesman Judd Deere said in a statement.

Deere asserted that the law limits patient choice, has premiums that are too expensive and restricts patients with high-risk

conditions from going to the doctors and hospitals they need. President Donald Trump has said that he would protect people with preexisting conditions, as have other Republicans, but he hasn't spelled out a plan.

Some GOP lawmakers in contested races this fall are unnerved by the prospect of Trump administration lawyers asking the Supreme Court during the coronavirus outbreak to toss out a law that provides coverage to at least 20 million Americans.

"The ACA remains the law of the land, and it is the Department of Justice's duty to defend it," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. "That is especially true during the current public health

crisis our country is facing due to COVID-19."

She is among those urging the administration not to get rid of the law, but instead make broader use of it to cover uninsured people during the pandemic. Collins is considered among the most endangered incumbents as Republicans try to keep their Senate majority.

It's unclear whether the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments before the November election. A group of GOP-led states contends that because Congress repealed an ACA tax penalty, the law's requirement for individuals to carry health insurance is unconstitutional. If the insurance mandate is unconstitutional,

their argument goes, then the rest of the law must collapse like a house of cards.

The administration agrees, but has also suggested that federal judges could decide to keep some parts of the law. The Supreme Court took the case after a federal appeals court in New Orleans said the ACA's insurance mandate is unconstitutional, but did not rule on the rest of the law.

From nearly 12 million people to 35 million could lose their workplace coverage due to layoffs in the coronavirus shutdown, according to an estimate by the consulting firm Health Management Associates. They have more options because of the Obama-era law.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

## Retired Colo. paramedic honored after his death while volunteering in NYC

Associated Press

DENVER — A retired Colorado paramedic who died from coronavirus after volunteering to help combat the pandemic in New York City was honored Sunday as his body was returned to Denver.

Paul Cary, 66, who worked 32 years as a firefighter paramedic in the Denver suburbs, died April 30, a month after he began working in New York. He was part of a wave of out-of-state medical technicians, doctors and nurses who came to the city to help relieve a health care system being overwhelmed by the virus.

Gov. Jared Polis said Cary had "heroically" served his community and country and traveled thousands of miles to help others. A large procession of fire trucks, EMS and other emergency vehicles drove from the airport after Cary's body was returned Sunday night.

"He risked his own health and safety, and stepped up to do what he could," Polis said in a statement. "I can never express just how grateful I am for people like Paul, and all our emergency responders who are on the front lines of this virus."

When he volunteered, Cary was working with a private ambulance company, Ambulnz from which 75 employees had volunteered to work in New York, according to Ambulnz spokesman Josh Weiss.

Cary responded from a location in the Bronx to calls ranging from patient transfers to 911 calls. He was planning to stay for a second, one-month tour before getting sick, Weiss said. He spent his final days at a ventilator at Montefiore Medical Center, Weiss said.

## California

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco's police chief said the city's rank and file will wear neutral face coverings to defuse a controversy that was sparked when officers sent to patrol a May Day protest wore masks adorned with the "thin blue line" flag.

The police union ordered and distributed the masks emblazoned with a black-and-white American flag with a blue stripe across the middle. The symbol is associated with the Blue Lives Matter movement, a display of unity among police officers in response to the national Black Lives Matter movement.

In an email obtained by KTVU-TV, Chief Bill Scott told his officers he considered the blue flag and stripe "a meaningful expression to honor fallen officers." However, he worried that some may perceive the symbol as "divisive and disrespectful."

A retired civil rights lawyer told the San Francisco Chronicle the masks, which also include

the logo for the San Francisco Police Officers Association, violate a long-standing policy that bars police from expressing political opinions while wearing their uniforms.

## Florida

DAYTONA BEACH — Seniors at two Florida high schools won't be taking the traditional walk across the stage to receive their diplomas because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Instead, they'll be driving across the finish line at the Daytona International Speedway later this month.

The school district announced the ceremonies will take place May 31. Matanzas High School's graduation will begin at 11 a.m., followed by Flagler-Palm Coast High School's ceremony at 4 p.m. Each graduate will be allowed one car. The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported.

The ceremonies will be simulcast via radio inside the facility and will be live-streamed on the FlaglerSchools.com website, school officials said.

## Illinois

CHICAGO — A small northern Illinois church defied crowd restrictions in the state's latest stay-at-home order, holding a Sunday service with dozens of people. Gov. J.B. Pritzker's extension of the order, which lifts May 30, allows for worship limited to groups of 10, along with other social distancing measures.

Roughly 100 people attended The Beloved Church in Lena, according to WRFX-TV, which was denied entrance but interviewed attendees and neighbors who counted congregants. The community of roughly 2,800 people is 130 miles northwest of Chicago.

Worshippers stood with their families, but stayed six feet away from others and were provided hand sanitizer and masks, according to Thomas Cieslik, a spokesman for the Thomas More Society, which represents the church in court.

Pritzker said Sunday that the order is temporary and faith leaders should make keeping parishioners safe a top priority.

"We're not stopping you from praying. We're not stopping you from connecting with your parishioners," he said. "What we are trying to stop is the spread of this invisible killer."

## Kansas

TOPEKA — Shuttered retailers, dine-in restaurants and offices in some parts of Kansas were reopening Monday as Gov. Laura Kelly gradually began lifting the state's stay-at-home order amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Social distancing still must be observed, and masks are strongly



HELEN H. RICHARDSON, THE DENVER POST/AP

**Ambulnz paramedics and Aurora firefighters salute as the casket carrying the body of paramedic Paul Cary is removed from a plane at Denver International Airport on Sunday in Denver. Cary died from coronavirus after volunteering to help combat the pandemic in New York City.**

encouraged under the first reopening phase. Many businesses, including bars, gyms, theaters, barbershops, hair and nail salons or state-owned casinos, must remain closed until the second phase, which is expected to begin on May 18. That's when the 10-person mass gathering limit will begin to gradually increase, rising to 30 until June 1 and 90 until June 15.

Churches, however, will be exempted from the mass-gathering rules, although worshippers must spread out and not pass collection plates.

## Kentucky

LEXINGTON — A history museum in central Kentucky is asking for submissions to document how the coronavirus has affected lives.

The Lexington History Museum told WKYT-TV that the Lexington Pandemic History Project seeks to build a historical record. Residents are encouraged to send stories and photos by email to mail to the museum. Officials say the length and content of submissions are up to senders.

The submissions will be reviewed by a historian when the virus has passed, the museum said.

The collection can help future leaders make informed decisions when there's another crisis, chief historian Foster Ockerman Jr. said.

## New Mexico

GALLUP — Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham extended to Thursday the closure of all roads to nonessential traffic in Gallup, one of the largest communities bordering the Navajo Nation, where a surging coronavirus outbreak has already prompted widespread restrictions and weekend lockdowns.

Lujan Grisham's extension of the order, which was issued Sunday, also required that businesses

in Gallup close from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. in the city of about 20,000 people along Interstate 40, which remained open to through traffic.

Gallup Mayor Louis Bonaguidi asked the governor to extend the order, which Lujan Grisham first issued on Friday.

## Ohio

COLUMBUS — An order for people to wear face coverings while in stores was reversed last week because it "went too far," Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said Sunday.

DeWine reversed the order, saying many Ohioans saw it as "one government mandate too far" and saying face coverings were strongly recommended but would no longer be required. He repeated that sentiment Sunday on ABC's "This Week," calling it "a bridge too far" and saying, "People were not going to accept the government telling them what to do."

"So my ability to communicate to the people of Ohio, frankly, I thought, was going to be really impeded and we would get hung up on the mandatory masks for someone going in as a customer and it just wasn't going to work," he said. "And so you got to know what you can do and what you can't do."

On Friday, the Republican governor extended the state shutdown until May 29 while also allowing retail stores to expand their business earlier than expected.

## South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS — Some meatpackers are returning to work at Smithfield Foods in Sioux Falls. The company was to open part of the plant Monday after being closed for more than two weeks.

The meatpacking plant asked about 250 employees to report to work in two departments — ground pork and night cleanup, according to the United Food and Commercial Workers local

union.

The coronavirus has infected 853 of the plant's 3,100 workers.

Smithfield has told employees who are sick, those over 60 or who have existing health problems to stay home, according to the union.

Meanwhile, OSHA is looking into worker complaints that the plant operated under unsafe conditions, the Argus Leader reported.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention toured the facility last month and recommended several changes to reduce crowding, especially in the break and locker rooms and cafeterias.

## West Virginia

CHARLESTON — Some West Virginia restaurants are balking at the chance to reopen as Gov. Jim Justice's plan to get the state economy moving again in response to the coronavirus enters its second week.

Despite the chance to recoup lost revenues, Super Weenie hot dog shop owner Jason Myer told the Charleston-Gazette Mail that he won't reopen "until it makes sense."

Myer closed his Charleston shop in March. The shop caters to lunchtime crowds.

Starting Monday, Justice's reopening plan included small businesses with fewer than 10 employees, restaurants with outdoor seating, barber shops and dog groomers.

The risk of reopening during the pandemic isn't worth a potential boost in sales, said Keeley Steele, who operates three businesses on Charleston's East End, including the Tricky Fish restaurant and Starlings Coffee & Provisions.

Steele said she's not convinced reopening would be profitable due to limited seating and buying personal protective equipment for employees.



## NATION

# Nebraska set to open voting sites despite concerns

By GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska is forging ahead with plans to hold the nation's first in-person election in more than a month, despite health concerns and allegations that political motivations are fueling opposition to an all-mail approach.

Barring an unexpected change, Nebraska's primary will take place on May 12 — five weeks after Wisconsin held the last in-person balloting when courts sided with Republican legislators who pushed for that election to go forward.

Republicans who hold all statewide offices and control the Legislature have encouraged people to cast early absentee ballots. However, they argue state law requires polling sites to be open and that it's important for voters to have a choice for how they vote, even amid health concerns.

As Secretary of State Bob Evnen put it last month, "I do not think Nebraska is going to stay away from the polls or not vote because of a microbe."

Gov. Pete Ricketts agreed, arguing that to do otherwise would "disenfranchise voters who want to go to the polls," and noting that elections were previously held

despite wars and pandemics.

Others, however, questioned the motives behind the decision to hold the first statewide election since Wisconsin's much-criticized April 7 primary and expressed doubt voting could safely take place. Wisconsin health officials say more than 50 people who voted in person or worked the polls during the election have tested positive for COVID-19.

The primary will decide a Democratic contest to pick a nominee to face Republican Rep. Don Bacon in the Omaha area's 2nd Congressional District, traditionally the only U.S. House seat in Nebraska where Democrats are competitive. Voters will also pick candidates in dozens of ostensibly nonpartisan legislative races, which could help determine whether Republicans gain a super-majority in the Legislature.

Nebraska Democrats have asserted for weeks that Republican leaders don't want to hold an all-mail election because of concern it would help Democrats, especially in the urban areas of Omaha and Lincoln. Republicans have dismissed such claims, but Democrats point to statements by President Donald Trump who has said "you'd never have a Republican elected in this country again" if all states switched to



Pam Fleming and fellow workers stuff ballots and instructions into mail-in envelopes April 14 at the Lancaster County Election Committee offices in Lincoln, Neb.

NATI HARNIK/AP

vote-by-mail.

Jane Kleeb, chairwoman of the Nebraska Democratic Party, said Ricketts and the state GOP are concerned about any change that might boost Democratic turnout.

"The only reason I can see the governor not doing it is for political reasons," she said. "The Republican playbook is always to suppress the vote. They know that when fewer people vote, they win elections."

Sen. Steve Lathrop, an Omaha Democrat, also criticized the decision to hold a polling place election but said that with the primary only a couple of weeks away, it's too late to change course now.

"Given the seriousness of the pandemic, we should have turned this into a vote-by-mail election," Lathrop said.

Officials plan to provide all poll workers with gloves, masks, hand sanitizer and wipes, and the state has purchased 50 additional ballot drop-off boxes for counties.

## Biden wins Kan. primary using all mail-in balloting

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — Joe Biden overwhelmingly won a Democratic presidential primary in Kansas that the state party conducted exclusively by mail because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The former vice president had been expected to prevail in Saturday's vote and capture a majority of the state's delegates to the Democrats' national nominating convention. Biden took 77% of the vote.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders was still in the race when the Kansas party began mailing ballots at the end of March,

but he suspended his campaign and endorsed Biden.

Biden won 29 delegates and Sanders got 10, inching Biden closer to the number of delegates he needs to clinch the Democratic nomination.

Democratic leaders originally had planned to set up polling places across the state in addition to allowing mail balloting. But they scrapped plans for in-person voting at the end of March after Gov. Laura Kelly issued a statewide stay-at-home order, and the change nearly tripled participation over four years ago, with 34.7% of registered Democrats casting ballots.

## Arab Americans in Mich. urged to prioritize census

By JEFF KAROUB  
AND MIKE HOUSEHOLDER  
Associated Press

DEARBORN, Mich. — At a Michigan gas station, the message is obvious — at least to Arab speakers: Be counted in the 2020 census.

"Provide your community with more/additional opportunities," the ad on the pump handle reads in Arabic. In the fine print, next to "United States Census 2020," it adds: "To shape your future with your own hands, start here."

As state officials and nonprofit groups target hard-to-count groups like immigrants, people of color and those in poverty, many Arab Americans say the undercount is even more pronounced for them. That means one of the largest and most concentrated Arab populations outside the Middle East — those in the Detroit area — could be missing out on federal funding for education, health care, crime prevention and other programs that the census determines how to divvy up.

That also includes money to help states address the fallout from the coronavirus.

"We are trying to encourage people not just to fill it out because of all the reasons we had given before,



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

A billboard highlighting the 2020 Census is seen in Dearborn, Mich., on April 30.

where there's education and health care and all of that, but also because it is essential for the federal government to know who is in Michigan at this point more than ever before," said Rima Merouh, director of policy and advocacy with Dearborn-based ACCESS, one of the largest Arab American advocacy nonprofits in the country.

"I definitely filled it out as much as I got it. I believe in representation," said Abdullah Haydar, 44, from Canton Township, Mich.

But support for the census isn't unanimous. Some in the Arab community have raised concerns about government questions over their citizenship status if they participate, though that is not part of the form.

"They don't trust the current administration. They don't trust what they're going to do with the information. And when you look at the so-called Muslim ban that was put in, people don't want to be on the government's radar," said Haydar.

## Scientists worry about loss of bees from 'murder hornets'

By MARISA IATI  
The Washington Post

As if 2020 weren't terrifying enough, now we have to worry about "murder hornets."

The world's largest hornet — the size of a matchbox — is known for invading honeybee hives, decapitating all the bees in a matter of hours and carrying the mangled thoraxes back to feed their young.

And now they're in the United States.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture is trying to track down the fearsome insects, also nicknamed "yak-killer hornets" or "giant sparrow bees," after officials received and verified four reports of them in December in the northwestern part of the state. They were also spotted in two sites in the Canadian province of British Columbia in the fall.

In a New York Times story that made the term "murder hornets" trend on Twitter on Satur-

day, Conrad Berube, beekeeper and entomologist in Nanaimo, Canada, described being stung by an Asian giant hornet as "like having red-hot thumbtacks being driven into my flesh."

The hornets primarily attack insects but will direct their aggression toward people if they're threatened. Their quarter-inch stingers, which can penetrate beekeeping suits, deploy a venom potent enough to dissolve human flesh.

Absorbing multiple stings can be deadly. The nervous system can shut down, and an allergic reaction may occur and cause anaphylactic shock. The insects kill 30 to 40 people each year in Japan, where they're most common.

But the giant hornets are primarily a danger to bees. Scientists are now hunting for the insects, whose queens can grow to two inches long, in hopes of rounding them up before they become rooted in the United States and destroy bee populations that are crucial to crop pollination.

WORLD



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

Mourners gather at the tunnel in Duisburg, western Germany, where 21 people were killed in a stampede during the Love Parade techno music festival in 2010.

# German court ends Love Parade trial

Associated Press

BERLIN — A German court Monday closed a trial over the mass panic at the 2010 Love Parade techno music festival in which 21 people died, ending the proceedings without a verdict after 2½ years.

The Duisburg state court ended the trial after 184 court sessions, news agency dpa reported. Judges had proposed the move a month

ago, citing restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the fact that the statute of limitations on the charges expires in July.

Three of the original 10 defendants faced charges that included involuntary manslaughter and bodily harm. They were accused of planning failures and not monitoring security properly at the event.

The July 24, 2010, crush took place in a packed tunnel that was

the sole access point to the event in Duisburg, in western Germany. The victims included people from Spain, Australia, Italy, Bosnia, China and the Netherlands. More than 600 people were injured.

Prosecutors and the defendants agreed to the closure of proceedings. Relatives of victims — who joined the trial as co-plaintiffs, as is allowed in German law — opposed it, but their approval was not legally required.

# Venezuela says it foiled attack on main port city

By SCOTT SMITH

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan officials said that they foiled an early morning attempt by a group of armed “mercenaries” to invade the country in a beach landing using speedboats Sunday, killing eight attackers and arresting two more.

Socialist party chief Diosdado Cabello said that two of the attackers were interrogated by authorities. Cabello said that it was carried out by neighboring Colombia with the United States backing the plot to overthrow President Nicolas Maduro — a claim dismissed by U.S. and Colombian officials.

“Those who assume they can attack the institutional framework in Venezuela will have to assume the consequences of their action,” said Cabello.

Authorities said that they found Peruvian documents, high-caliber weapons, satellite phones, uniforms and helmets adorned with the U.S. flag. Both Colombia and the U.S. have repeatedly denied previous Venezuelan allegations of backing military plots against the socialist government.

“We have little reason to believe anything that comes out of the former regime,” said a spokesperson with the State Department Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, speaking Sunday on condition of anonymity, referring to Maduro’s government. “The Maduro regime has been consistent in its use of misinformation in order to shift focus from its mismanagement of Venezuela.”

Colombia’s Foreign Affairs Ministry also rejected the claims made by what it called “Maduro’s dictatorial regime.”

# Sharansky to use Genesis Prize proceeds to fight coronavirus

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Former Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky, winner of the 2020 Genesis Prize, announced Monday that he will donate the \$1 million award to organizations fighting the coronavirus pandemic and assist-

ing people most affected by the outbreak.

In a statement released by prize organizers, Sharansky said that he would support organizations in Israel and abroad, some delivering immediate relief to victims and others pursuing longer-term

research against the disease. In forgoing the prize money, he follows a tradition set by previous winners.

The Genesis Prize Foundation said that donations would go to organizations providing emergency services to Jerusalem residents of

all faiths, and assisting severely disabled children, domestic violence victims, African migrants in Tel Aviv and people in need of mental health services.

He will also support research at Israel’s Weizmann Institute of Science, Columbia University

and New York University, as well as help elderly Jewish communities overseas.

The award is given each year to a person recognized for outstanding professional achievement, contribution to humanity and commitment to Jewish values.



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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man arrested, tried to live on Disney island

**FL** ORLANDO — Florida deputies arrested a man who had been living out his quarantine on a shuttered Disney World island, telling authorities it felt like a “tropical paradise.”

Orange County Sheriff’s deputies found Richard McGuire on Disney’s Discovery Island on Thursday. He said he’d been there since Monday or Tuesday and had planned to camp there for a week, according to an arrest report.

The 42-year-old said he didn’t hear numerous deputies searching the private island for him on foot, by boat and by air because he was asleep in a building. He told the deputy he didn’t know it was a restricted area, despite there being numerous “no trespassing” signs.

## Woman killed in attack by alligator at pond

**SC** KIAWAH ISLAND — Deputies in South Carolina shot and killed an alligator that fatally attacked a woman, authorities said.

The officers were called to a pond on Kiawah Island and saw the animal attack, the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office said.

The woman was dead. Her name has not been released. Deputies retrieved the alligator’s carcass to help with the investigation, deputies said on Twitter.

Authorities did not say if they knew what the woman or the alligator were doing before the attack.

## Construction of Vietnam vet memorial underway

**MA** FALL RIVER — The construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Fall River’s Bicentennial Park is scheduled to start in mid-May and will likely be ready before a targeted Veterans Day deadline.

Construction is scheduled to begin the second week in May and just in time for state funding before the 2020 fiscal year ends June 3, Memorial Wall Committee chairman Joseph Marshall told The Herald News.

“I would say it could be completed by the end of summer,” Marshall said.

The official groundbreaking last July drew state officials and Gold Star families of soldiers who died in the Vietnam War.

The \$1.4 million project will be the region’s only permanent replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

## Counterfeit money, guns and drugs found in home

**MI** CHARLESTON TOWNSHIP — Authorities have found suspected counterfeit currency and equipment used to make it in a southwestern Michigan home.

Suspected methamphetamine and firearms also were found in the home in the Charleston Township, about 128 miles west of Detroit.



ANDREE KEHN, (LEWISTON, MAINE) SUN JOURNAL/AP

## Just some alone time

A lone fisherman rides along in his boat on South Pond in Greenwood, Maine, on Friday.

Deputies had the home under surveillance after receiving information on possible drug sales and stolen property inside, the Kalamazoo County sheriff’s office said.

When a vehicle matching one reported stolen from Kalamazoo Township was seen leaving the location deputies tried to stop it.

The driver went off the road and surrendered after the vehicle became stuck in a cornfield.

Deputies then obtained a search warrant for the home.

## Police charge man in backhoe incident

**NJ** BRIDGETON — A vandal who authorities said used a backhoe to damage numerous items at a southern New Jersey construction site, including the backhoe, is now facing charges.

Damien Long, 29, of Pittsgrove Township, was recently charged with burglary and criminal mischief, Bridgeton police said.

Long went to the construction site and used a backhoe to ride around and smash an electric utility pole, breaker box, an office trailer and the backhoe itself, authorities said. Police responded when someone called 911, but Long had already left the area by the time officers arrived.

The vandalism caused more than \$12,000 worth of damage and was captured on video, authorities said.

## THE CENSUS

# 21

The number of cars in a parking lot destroyed when severe storms brought down power lines sparking fires in New Jersey. The fires in Ridgefield were reported as heavy rains and strong, gusty winds moved through the region. The fires were extinguished nearly three hours later, and no injuries were reported.

Authorities say the downed power lines landed on vehicles at the lot, which they say is used as a storage area for a local auto dealership.

## Man charged with hate intimidation in attack

**SC** CHARLESTON — Police charged a white South Carolina man with hate intimidation, saying he punched and yelled racial slurs at a black man in an unprovoked attack.

Witnesses reported the victim was walking down a Charleston street when James Alden Vige, 39, began yelling racial slurs at him, according to a statement from city officials.

Vige continued to yell at the victim before punching him and shoving him to the ground, the statement said. The victim was not seriously injured and declined medical treatment, according to police.

Authorities said the men did not know each other.

## Waves from lake wash away pavement in town

**IN** BEVERLY SHORES — Waves from Lake Michigan have washed away a section of pavement in a Northwest Indi-

ana town, threatening utility lines and nearby homes.

Rangers with the Indiana Dunes National Park stood guard at a sharp cliff overlooking Lake Michigan that was once parking for Lakeview Beach in the town of Beverly Shores, about 40 miles east of Chicago.

Bruce Rowe, the park’s supervisory ranger, said rangers were still assessing the damage caused by the storm but acknowledged a “significant piece of pavement was lost.”

## State Fair says it’s still on for late summer

**NE** GRAND ISLAND — Nebraska State Fair officials are still planning to hold the 11-day event in Grand Island later this summer, according to a release from the fair’s interim director.

Interim director Jaime Parr said in a news release that the event starting Aug. 28 and running through Sept. 7 is still on, as is its Aksarben Stock Show set to run from Sept. 24-27.

“State Fair staff and Board are mindful of and monitoring the current COVID-19 impact to events and social gatherings,” Parr said.

But plans to hold the fair could still change if the outbreak worsens, she said.

## Officer, deputy injured during chase for theft

**GA** PORT WENTWORTH — A police officer and a sheriff’s deputy were injured in a car chase after three men stole from a Walmart and fled, authorities said.

Rincon police said they pulled over the three suspects and began to question them, but the suspects fled and threw a gun from the car.

Rincon police decided not to pursue because of the busy time of day.

Port Wentworth police said an officer later saw the suspects’ vehicle going 85 mph in a 50 mph zone. The officer attempted to pull the car over but they continued to flee.

An Effingham County Sheriff’s Office deputy attempted to help the officer during the chase but the two crashed into each other and were hospitalized.

Port Wentworth police arrested Jermaine Kareem Evans on and identified the other two suspects as Jamari Pai’Shaw Chisholm and Javonta Hakeem Coney.

From wire reports



## FACES



Artists such as (from left) Jon Bon Jovi, Luke Combs and Grace Potter are among the musical acts who have written new or reworked previous songs to reflect the coronavirus pandemic.

# Songs of the times

## New, remixed tunes address realities of quarantine

By MESFIN FEKADU  
Associated Press

With masks over their mouths and gloves on their hands, country superstar Luke Combs and his band went to a music studio — in separate rooms — and recorded a new song reflecting the mood of a world dramatically altered by the spreading coronavirus.

Singing lyrics like “I miss my mom, I miss my dad,” Combs performed “Six Feet Apart,” a song he wrote on April 14 during a Zoom writing session with songwriters Brent Cobb and Rob Snyder.

In an interview last week with *The Associated Press*, Combs described the recording session as “very weird.”

“There was hardly anybody there. There were two guitar players, a bass player and a drummer and they were never even in the same room as I was,” he said. “Just very surreal that we couldn’t even say hello to each other.”

“Six Feet Apart” recalls the simple

things people miss today — embracing family members, eating at a restaurant, socializing with friends or going to a movie.

“You don’t think about how cool that stuff is to do until you don’t get to do it anymore,” Combs said.

The song was released May 1, and more than 40 other tracks like it have been released in the time since the COVID-19 virus hit the United States in a big way in March. Most of the tracks are originals, like Combs’ tune, although some artists have reworked older songs to make them relevant. Others have joined forces for all-star covers of songs to raise money for charities benefiting virus victims and first responders.

Bono, Bon Jovi, twenty one pilots, Pitbull, Randy Newman, OneRepublic, Lil Tjay, Michael Buble, Mike Campbell and Tye Tribbett are some of the acts who dropped original songs reflecting the current times. Latin R&B artist St. Pedro even penned a groovy track titled “Phone Sex” for those far away from their lovers, while country

singer Adam Hambrick wrote a song about his wife, a physician’s assistant working to test people for COVID-19 and caring for patients.

Mike Love of the Beach Boys, who had to postpone 60-plus shows due to the virus, said he thought to himself while sitting to home: “What could I do musically to inject a little positivity in a situation which is primarily pretty restrictive and negative?”

Then he wrote “This Too Shall Pass,” an upbeat, Beach Boys-flavored gem brimming with positive messages that also gives a shout-out to doctors and nurses working on the front lines. All artist and label royalties from the song will go to Feeding America’s COVID-19 Response Fund.

“I wanted to put a smile on a lot of faces,” Love said. “I’ve been performing on the road for almost six decades, so I’ve seen lots of things come and go — the Vietnam War, civil unrest and all the things that we’ve gone through as a society. Even if they’re really negative, they do pass.”

## Written about the pandemic

Musicians can’t perform on the road right now, but they’re still able to create music. Here are some songs written in the past six weeks related to life in quarantine and social distancing. A playlist is available on Spotify and Apple Music.

- 1. Luke Combs, “Six Feet Apart”:** The country singer tackles the simple things we are currently missing in life in quarantine, from visiting our parents to going to the movies.
- 2. Bon Jovi, “Do What You Can”:** Written after volunteering at his own community restaurant, Jon Bon Jovi encourages everyone to lend a hand.
- 3. twenty one pilots, “Level of Concern”:** An ‘80s dance-floor groove where lead singer Tyler Joseph asks, “Wondering would you be my little quarantine?”
- 4. Pitbull, “I Believe That We Will Win (World Anthem)”:** Feeling down? Here’s an upbeat, encouraging song for you.
- 5. Turbo, Gunna and Young Thug, “Quarantine Clean”:** A rap song about self-quarantining.
- 6. OneRepublic, “Better Days”:** A reminder that things will get better.
- 7. Bono, “Let Your Love Be Known”:** Bono wrote the track after being inspired by Italians quarantined during the outbreak. Will.i.am then performed his own version of the song, which features Jennifer Hudson and Yoshiaki.
- 8. St. Pedro, “Phone Sex”:** For those away from their partners, some advice to keep the bedrooms alive.
- 9. Randy Newman, “Stay Away”:** A song about social distancing with Newman’s signature wit.
- 10. Adam Hambrick, “Between Me and the End of the World”:** A tear-jerker about this country singer’s wife, a physician’s assistant working to test people for COVID-19.
- 11. Michael Buble, Barenaked Ladies and Sofia Reyes, “Gotta Be Patient”:** Advising us to keep calm and chill out.
- 12. Mike Love featuring John Stamos, “This Too Shall Pass”:** Just like a Beach Boys song, a feel-good tune.
- 13. Lil Tjay, “Ice Cold”:** This platinum-selling rapper spills his feelings about the current state of the world.
- 14. Grace Potter featuring Marcus King, Jackson Browne and Lucius, “Eachother”:** We still have one another.
- 15. Mike Campbell, “Lockdown”:** “I’m keeping my distance, at least six feet / And I’m microwaving everything I eat.”
- 16. Rodney “Darkchild” Jerkins Presents The Good News, “Come Together”:** An anthem by gospel musicians including Kirk Franklin, Mary Mary, Lecrae and Marvin Sapp.
- 17. Snow The Product, “Nowhere to Go (Quarantine Love)”:** In just 24 hours, this rapper-created this song and its music video about having a free schedule.
- 18. Tye Tribbett, “We Can Be Alright”:** Sampling Kendrick Lamar, Tribbett sends a comforting message to the world.
- 19. Benjamin Gibbard, “Life in Quarantine”:** Death Cab for Cutie frontman sings a soft rock track about people isolating.
- 20. Alexander 23, “IDK You Yet”:** Alexander wrote and produced this touching song that sounds like a future radio hit.
- 21. Drive-by Truckers, “Quarantine Together”:** The title says it all.
- 22. Erika Ender, “Back to the Basics”:** “Despacito” co-writer offers a positive song in a time of turmoil.
- 23. Riley Green, “Better Than Me”:** A country song that opens with heat: “Is the world on fire, feels like a bad dream / Did the hammer come down, feels like a kick in the teeth.”
- 24. SENRI OE, “Togetherness”:** The Japanese pianist’s breezy instrumental track will brighten up your day.

— Mesfin Fekadu

# Author says prequel to ‘Twilight’ series will arrive Aug. 4

Associated Press

“The Midnight Sun” will finally appear.

Stephanie Meyer’s long-awaited prequel to her “Twilight” series is coming out Aug. 4, the author announced on her website Monday. “The Midnight Sun” is narrated from vampire Edward Cullen’s perspective.

Meyer had kept her fans in suspense all weeklong with a countdown clock on her site that promised a major announcement. The site soon crashed Monday morning, but the book was also announced by Meyer’s publisher, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

“It feels strange to be making this announcement when the world is suffering through a pandemic, and no one really knows what’s next. I thought seriously about delaying this announcement until

things were back to normal; however, that felt wrong, considering how long those who are eager for this book have already waited,” Meyer said in a statement.

“I know how much I personally need distractions right now, how much I need something to look forward to, and most of all, how much I need more books to read. So, I hope this book gives my readers a little pleasure to anticipate and, after it arrives, a chance to live in an imaginary world for a while.”

Meyer had abandoned “The Midnight Sun” more than a decade ago after part of it leaked online. Her “Twilight” series has sold more than 100 million copies worldwide and was adapted into a blockbuster film franchise that starred Robert Pattinson as Edward and Kristen Stewart as Bella Swan, the teenager who falls in love with him.

## Other news

■ **The Television Critics Association** said May 4 that its summer event, which brings together TV critics and the makers of upcoming programs, won’t be held, citing the “current state” of TV production. The organization’s board and TV networks are exploring “virtual alternatives” to the Q&A panels that make up the annual summer and winter meetings.

■ **Anderson Cooper** is a father. The CNN anchor announced the birth of his son, Wyatt, April 30 on his show and in a lengthy Instagram post. His son was born April 27 via a surrogate, the newsman said, and is named after his father, who died when Cooper was 10.

■ **Gil Schwartz**, the longtime CBS communications executive who wrote numerous novels and columns under the pen name

Stanley Bing, died May 2. He was 68. CBS representatives said his death was unexpected, but due to natural causes. Schwartz had a distinguished nearly 40-year career in corporate America with CBS, Viacom and Westinghouse Broadcasting. He also had a once-secret and then public side career as a lauded humorist and writer of 13 books who satirized the business world he was part of.

■ **Actor Joe Pantoliano**, known for his roles in movies and in HBO’s “Sopranos,” is recovering at his Connecticut home after being struck by a car May 1 while walking in his neighborhood. A post on Instagram showing Pantoliano with stitches in his head and giving a thumbs-up sign. The post read, “Joe is home recovering. He has a severe head injury and some chest trauma.”

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## OPINION

## Rebuilding the Navy helps on 3 fronts

By HUGH HEWITT

Special to The Washington Post

President Donald Trump has before him a unique opportunity to put the American manufacturing sector into first gear again while serving notice to the Chinese Communist Party that the United States is fully alert to the competition ahead and to the CCP's negligence in handling the pandemic that began in Wuhan.

The U.S. Navy, the country's defense industrial base and Wisconsin celebrated last week the Navy's selection of Fincantieri Marinette Marine to build the first 10 of the fleet's new guided-missile frigates, known as FFG(X). This design selection, begun under President Barack Obama, has settled on a lethal, missile-filled porcupine of a ship that will provide presence and deterrence across the globe — nowhere more than the waters of the "first island chain" off the East Asia coast, the physical boundary along which super-power competition will largely play out for the rest of the century.

Now Trump can cement his legacy as a navalist president, alongside John Adams, the two Roosevelts and Ronald Reagan, by directing the Navy to quintuple the initial order while tripling the number of shipyards participating. Some experts whisper that the eventual "build" of this class will be 60 or more, and a second shipyard's participation is anticipated. The president should make that official and designate not one but two more shipyards. This isn't too big of a stretch for the United States, as Arthur Herman's remarkable "Freedom's Forge" reminds us. Civilian heroes

of America's military preparation after the Depression, led by General Motors' William Knudsen, ordered President Franklin D. Roosevelt's orders of rearmament in 1940 and 1941 — before Pearl Harbor.

On June 5, 1940, for example, Knudsen issued contracts for 948 Navy vessels, including 292 combat ships. Four months later, the Navy realized that it would need 50 more destroyers, so Knudsen ordered 10 new shipways in six locations. American manufacturing can be put in the harness when a president directs it.

The Navy's new frigate has cousins already afloat, serving in four navies including Italy's and France's. I was one of many journalists invited aboard the Italian Navy frigate Alpino when it paid a call to Baltimore in May 2018. The shipbuilder had brought into its ranks retired three-star Vice Adm. Rick Hunt, who guided me and other rookies around the warship with a minimum of bruised shins and knocked foreheads. Since then, I've followed the "competition" between the four would-be contractors. I've been there. I just wanted the Navy to move quickly to get its new frigate into production.

The new FFG(X) will be packed with Tomahawk land attack, naval surface strike and an assortment of air defense missiles that have the ability to change the face of battle up to a thousand miles from the ship. More than this kinetic killing ability, however, the frigate in large numbers provides presence. A weekly guest on my radio show, retired four-star Adm. James Stavridis, formerly supreme allied commander and head of America's Southern Command, never tires of offering two pieces of wise counsel: "Quantity has a

quality all its own," and "oceans never grow smaller."

The CCP's People's Liberation Army Navy has been building new, highly capable ships at an astonishing rate. It is investing in every class of ship as well as vast missile forces and cybercapabilities. We are at work too on new hypersonic missiles and far-reaching cybercapabilities.

We are a maritime nation and will always need the fleet, even as other traditional land-based military forces adjust to a competition fought over, under and on the ocean and in virtual space. The ship-building community in Wisconsin is celebrating this week, but a simple command from Trump to scale up massively this purchase initiated by his predecessor and designed and selected by apolitical professionals could be a signal that the manufacturing renaissance that will allow America's shutdown is underway.

If Trump pushes the Pentagon to increase the number of and the yard producing the new frigate, a truly historic momentum will have been achieved. And as every ship-building job generates six jobs behind it, the entire defense industrial base will benefit even as the country reorients Small Business toward the new adversary in the competition laid bare by the negligence of the CCP that visited this plague on the world.

FDR made the Navy great again, but not in time to prevent war. Trump should act now, to drive the fleet forward, deter conflict and mark an achievement amid the malaise.

Hugh Hewitt hosts a nationally syndicated radio show on the National Network. He is also a political analyst for NBC, a professor of law at Chapman University and president of the Nixon Foundation.

## Without child care, the economy won't restart

ments were upended. While some day-care centers continue to serve essential workers, many have shut down completely."

"As a result, many of the estimated 1.5 million people employed in the child-care industry have seen their jobs disappear.... And as the already limited supply of child-care spaces contracts, demand is about to skyrocket. The same school closures posing problems for day-care providers will create an increased need for care among the rest of America's working parents. In two-thirds of families with school-age children, both parents work. Even parents of high schoolers are likely to be uncomfortable leaving their teenagers home alone while they return to work full time. For those with younger kids, it's not even an option."

States themselves are financially strapped, and funding for child care has barely been addressed. But there are other potential funding sources. Save the Children Action Network (SCAN), which advocates on childhood issues, has been calling attention to the child care crisis. Its recent national poll showed overwhelming bipartisan support for child care and funding child care at the federal level.

"87% (of voters) support providing enough federal assistance during the crisis to ensure current child care providers are able to make payroll and pay other expenses, such as rent and utilities," the poll found. That number includes 82% of Republicans and 80% of all voters favoring the child care industry targeted federal assistance to address the impact of COVID-19, while 78% favor federal reimbursement to essential workers for child care costs during the pandemic.

Congress did take action in the first Coronavirus Act, but it left out funding for the Child Care and Development Block

Grant and \$750 million for Head Start out of the \$2 trillion in spending. In addition, child care providers will be now able to access Small Business Administration loans, which can be forgiven if used to pay wages, utilities and rent or mortgage costs.

However, this is far from sufficient. Like many small businesses, many child care providers are closed. Others, which operate on small margins, are on the brink of collapse. SCAN is urging further funding, to keep paying child care workers during times their employers are closed and to provide needed support and supplies (such as personal protective equipment) for facilities that are open.

In 2019, before the pandemic, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., and Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, introduced the Child Care Workforce Facilities Act "to address the national shortage of affordable, quality child care, especially in rural communities." It would, for example, fund "competitive grants to states to support (1) the education, training, or retention of the child care workforce or (2) building, renovating, or expanding child care facilities in areas with child care shortages." The current crisis may renew interest in the bill.

Reopening the economy — which Republicans are so anxious to do — will get nowhere without rebuilding and expanding child care, especially in rural areas. If we keep paying child care workers and their constituents, act constructively to revive the economy, and score some points with voters whose support for them is dropping like a stone, they might think about using the next piece of relief legislation to bolster child care. And a whole lot of Democrats would be delighted to see this issue finally treated as the critical economic issue it is.

Jennifer Rubin writes reported opinion for The Washington Post.

# Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



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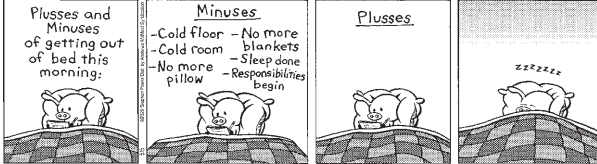
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



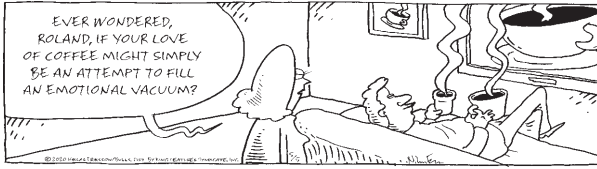
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



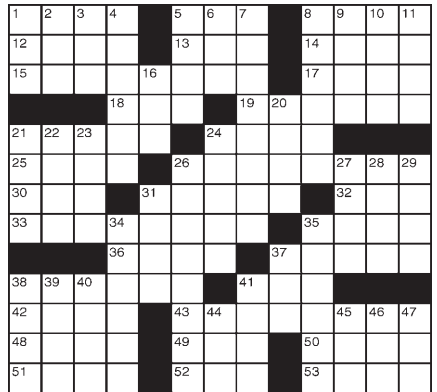
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- Omelet needs
- Furry foot
- Faucets
- Lacking slack
- German pronoun
- Mother of Zeus
- Ballot variety
- Deserve
- Museum display
- Synagogue leaders
- Fate
- Father (Fr.)
- Skin care brand
- Chinese brew
- Poice point?
- Smiles broadly
- Business mag
- Twice-baked Italian cookies
- "Little Women" sister
- Skin call reply
- Handbag
- Nikon product
- Singer McGraw
- Reed instrument
- California national park
- Toucan feature
- Epoch
- Actor Estrada
- Diner orders
- Aachen article
- "Phooey!"

### DOWN

- Dish
- Double-crossed
- Level
- Tolkien creatures
- "Troy" actor Brad Pitt
- Afrikaner
- Places to apply blush
- With "out," depressed
- Chart format
- Baseball's Ty Lincecum
- Gilpin of "Frasier"
- Without shepherd
- Castle defense
- Russian ruler
- Miner's find
- Lyrical Gershwin
- Badge metal
- Heart chart (Abbr.)

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 5-5

### CRYPTOQUIP

O P L M D M P D I M B M A  
P S M X I F M L P A H P K W I  
W R P J A U P X X M U A M K B I H O N  
J O W B M . A N M F R M N W S M  
L M I P - B X W L L W A H U W I I F .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OFFICIAL GROUP OF PEOPLE CHOSEN TO GO OUT AND REPRESENT SINGER REESE: THE DELLA-GATION.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals M



## MILITARY MATTERS



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# AUTO RACING/TRACK AND FIELD/GOLF

## Racing roundup

# Byron scores 3rd NASCAR iRacing victory

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — William Byron showed he's the sharpest gamer in NASCAR's iRacing Series with his third victory in four events.

Byron passed Timmy Hill with seven laps remaining at virtual Dover International Speedway, where NASCAR was scheduled to actually race Sunday, to win yet again on the iRacing platform. The Hendrick Motorsports driver has consistently been the best of the NASCAR professionals in simulated racing.

Alex Bowman won last week at virtual Talladega Superspeedway, so Hendrick drivers have won four consecutive iRacing events.

"I've enjoyed this iRacing Series, but I'm definitely ready to get going in my real car," Byron said. "Racing anything, whether it's a box car or anything with an engine, is going to give you confidence if you are winning."

He said that at all his years iRacing, he's never been in such competitive events as NASCAR. iRacing launched the invitationals esports series after the stock car series was suspended March 13.

Denny Hamlin earned the pole in qualifying, but NASCAR successfully applied an invert — a glitch last week prevented the top 10 from flipping before the race resumes, so Ross Chastain cycled into the top starting spot.

Hamlin had his race ruined last week when his daughter accidentally turned his simulator screen off with a remote control she was holding as he was competing. He made his first all-remotes before Sunday's race, but after an incident with John Hunter Nemechek, he seemed to



JOHN RADOU/AP

**William Byron picked up his third victory in the last four iRacing events on Sunday, passing Timmy Hill with seven laps remaining at virtual Dover International Speedway.**

be deliberately wrecked by Nemechek later in retaliation.

It brought out a late caution and a restart with nine laps remaining and Hill leading Byron at the green flag.

Byron didn't need to use a bump-and-run — the move Hill used on Byron to win the virtual race at Texas Motor Speedway — and easily passed him on the inside with seven laps remaining. Hill finished second and was shown at times racing with his cat on the starting wheel.

"William has done a great job through this iRacing invitationals," Hill said. "I just wish I could get another win. I've had such tremendous support from everyone in the racing community through this; this has been a blast and really brought us all together. We've really had a lot of fun racing all

these races, but I can't wait to get back and see everyone's faces."

NASCAR will complete its iRacing Series next Saturday at North Carolina's deserted North Wilkesboro Speedway, a track last raced by the national series in 1996. Overgrown with weeds and clearly neglected, Dale Earnhardt Jr. last year led a group of volunteers in cleaning the speedway so it could be mapped for use in iRacing.

Although the simulated version of North Wilkesboro is not yet available to the public on the iRacing platform, it will be the virtual host for NASCAR's finale. Then it's back to the real thing for the stock car series, which plans to resume competition without spectators starting May 17 at Darlington Raceway in South Carolina.

## McLaughlin scores 2nd virtual win on Indy oval

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Scott McLaughlin was supposed to leave Australia for Indianapolis this month to make his IndyCar debut on the road course at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

With sports on hold because of the virus pandemic, the two-time V8 SuperCars champion saw his IndyCar plans postponed.

McLaughlin instead settled for a virtual victory Saturday on the oval at Indianapolis Motor Speedway — his second win of IndyCar's iRacing six-race series — after a wild finish in which most of the leaders crashed as they rushed toward the checkered flag.

"Unbelievable," McLaughlin said. "I was literally just hoping there was going to be a wreck at the end. I thought we were going to be third, and then the three wrecked and we won."

McLaughlin celebrated in the seat of his simulator in Australia with a glass of cold milk, a nod to the traditional victory celebration at the Indianapolis 500. He declined to pour it over his head while sitting in his expensive rig.

Formula One driver Lando Norris, last week's IndyCar virtual race winner, was headed for a 1-2-3 podium sweep for the Arrow McLaren SP entries on the final lap before running into defending Indy 500 champion Simon Pagenaud to take himself out of contention.

Then Oliver Askew and Pato O'Ward crashed, cars were sailing airborne and McLaughlin slid through the carnage to give Team Penske drivers their fourth win in the six-race series.



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

**Rory McIlroy, left, bumps elbows with an official. McIlroy and Dustin Johnson will participate in a \$3 million charity match on May 17 that marks the return of televised golf.**

## McIlroy, Johnson headline virus charity match

Associated Press

Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson headline a \$3 million charity match for COVID-19 relief that will mark the first live golf on television since the pandemic shut down sports worldwide.

The May 17 match will be played at Seminole Golf Club in South Florida, a fabled course along the ocean where Ben Hogan once prepared for the Masters. It is to be televised by NBC networks, including Golf Channel, Sky Sports and the PGA Tour's global TV partners.

It will be the first golf event at Seminole shown on television.

McIlroy and Johnson, major champions who have reached No. 1 in the world, will be partners in a Skins match against Oklahoma State alumni Rickie Fowler and Matthew Wolff.

McIlroy and Johnson are playing for the American Nurses Foundation, while Fowler and Wolff are playing for the CDC Foundation. The match is titled, "TaylorMade Driving Relief." All four players have endorsement deals with TaylorMade.

McIlroy, currently No. 1 and the reigning PGA Tour player of the year, announced the match on the "Today" show with Carson Daly, with whom McIlroy has a podcast.

He described it as a chance to "do a small part to raise some money and raise some awareness."

Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson are to play an exhibition match with NFL greats Tom Brady and Peyton Manning, though details of when and where that match is to take place have not been disclosed.

Live golf was last seen on TV on March 12, the first round of The Players Championship. The tournament was canceled that night, and the earliest golf would return is June 11-14 at Colonial in Texas. Some details of the Seminole match were still being worked out as it relates to safety practices. Officials say spectators will not be allowed.

# Duplantis, Lavillenie split gold in backyard pole vaulting

By PAT GRAHAM

Associated Press

French pole vaulter Renaud Lavillenie hardly treated this like a garden-variety competition.

It was for backyard bragging rights. So he raised his intensity.

Lavillenie and Mondo Duplantis of Sweden shared the gold medal Sunday during a men's pole vault competition held in their own yards. Advertised as the "Ultimate Garden Clash," it was a rare sporting event contested during the coronavirus pandemic.

Duplantis, a world record-holder, and Lavillenie, the 2012 Olympic champion, each cleared a height of 16 feet 36 inches over a span of 30 minutes that was broadcast by World Athletics on its social media channels. Both had one miss. Sam Kendrick of the United States got the bronze by clearing the bar 26 times in a competition featuring three of the event's biggest names.

It just might have been a preview of the Tokyo Games, which have been postponed to 2021. Lavillenie certainly took his concentration to another level.

"It's crazy, but even doing this in my garden, I get the same feeling I'd get at a major championships," Lavillenie said. "It was very

exciting and I'm very happy to be a part of it."

They tried to figure out a tiebreaker before electing to share the gold. The 20-year-old Duplantis initially pushed for a three-minute playoffs format that was on the table, while the 33-year-old Lavillenie nixed the plan. He was exhausted.

Lavillenie did vault over his 36th successful bar just ahead of Duplantis. The event was split into two 15-minute sessions with a short haltime.

"I will give you a rematch, Mondo," he playfully said at the end.

The backyard idea was brought forth by Lavillenie, and the trio collaborated on the unique competition format because adjusting the bar wasn't practical without officials in place.

Duplantis competed from his base in Lafayette, La., with his setup next to a garden wall. Kendrick was at his farm in Oxford, Miss., with his landing mat nestled between trees and near a fence where a horse occasionally was caught on the video feed.

Then there was Lavillenie, who took part from Clermont-Ferrand, France. The family's trampoline was pushed to the side and there was a swingset in the background.

Don't expect this to be a new pole-vaulting format, though. This was only for show.



VASHA HUNT/AP

**World record-holder Mondo Duplantis, pictured, and Renaud Lavillenie, the 2012 Olympic champion, each cleared a height of 16 feet 36 inches over a span of 30 minutes in an event broadcast by World Athletics on its social media channels on Sunday.**



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL/SOCCER

## Colleges try to tip scales in athletes' favor

Facing nutritional challenges, athletes get cooking classes, to-go meals, grocery tips from schools

By Aaron Beard  
Associated Press

Nevada offensive lineman Nate Brown is doing his best to eat right, like many football players and other college athletes scattered around the country without access to training facilities amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The 6-foot-4, 300-pound rising senior has stumbled a few times in college sports' version of Weight Watchers, with no in-person classes or spring practices.

"Maybe I would get Taco Bell because I do like Taco Bell," Brown said. "Or maybe I'll have ice cream later at night. The meals that are maybe not super-nutritious, I've been trying to keep that to one a day."

Athletes have been displaced from facilities with well-stocked training tables and easy access to healthy snacks and protein shakes. Some are home with family members, while others are largely on their own in off-campus residences.

To help them, schools have provided care packages, grocery tips, recipes and even cooking demonstrations on social media. And nutritionists or dietitians at schools — there are 96 with at least one on staff, according to the College and Professional Sports Dietitians Association, with roughly two-thirds in the Power Five conferences — have consulted with athletes from afar.

The challenge is keeping athletes — already engaged in makeshift workout regimens — on track when it comes to adding strength or avoiding unwanted pounds, even as it remains unclear when they can return to campuses or whether they'll play this fall as the country tries to reopen.

"For some of them, it's really good that they're home, because they do have someone that's still making home-cooked meals for them," said Rachel Lukowski, Iowa State's director of sports nutrition for football. "And some don't have that, so it's a matter of, 'OK, here's how we can help you out here' or 'What can we do?'"

Nebraska has offered curbside-pickup meals for athletes near campus and Memphis sent 225 care packages containing items such as snacks and protective masks to its athletes in mid-April.

Lukowski said Iowa State's care packages included protein powder along with



Rick Scutieri/AP

Nevada offensive lineman Nate Brown says athletes who "really take care of their nutrition" will be in better shape whenever they return to campuses.

bottles allowing athletes to mix their own shakes without a blender, as well as grocery lists with tips for shopping for healthy foods on a budget and what to stash in the pantry; The school also posted cooking tips and recipes such as chicken dishes, egg

muffins and pancakes, among others.

Oregon State sports dietitian Toni Langhans has tried similar steps with the school's "Quarantine Kitchen Series" on Instagram. She wants athletes to feel comfortable in the kitchen by making dishes



Marcio Jose Sanchez/AP

Washington State offensive lineman Liam Ryan, living off campus with roommates, has been grilling a lot of protein and keeping an eye on his weight.

such as overnight oatmeal, stuffed peppers, black bean burgers or homemade hummus instead of ordering daily takeout meals.

Washington State offensive lineman Liam Ryan is staying in a house near the Pullman campus with roommates. They've been grilling so much steak, chicken, pork chops and salmon that they recently ran out of propane and had to get more.

The 6-5, 300-pound Ryan has focused on eating vegetables, brown rice and snacks like beef jerky or nuts. He's also been checking the scales to ensure he's staying near his playing weight.

Still, it's hard to fight every craving for athletes removed from the hour-filling campus routines of weight training, practices and study hall. Ryan had a strong one for Chips Ahoy cookies, so he picked up multiple packages, then threw several cookies in a bowl with milk as though eating cereal.

"O-lineman stuff, right there," he quipped.

Brown understands that challenge. He views it all as a test of "practicing self-control" when choosing what to bring home from the grocery or picking up takeout.

And yes, he has succumbed to the junk-food temptation. But when he has, he makes sure the next meal is a better one.

AP Sports Writer Teresa M. Walker in Nashville, Tenn., contributed to this report.

## Pandemic stresses international MLS players

By Tim Booth  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Kelvin Leerdam has been fortunate compared to many of the other foreign players in Major League Soccer, and it was completely by accident.

Born in Suriname but raised in the Netherlands, Leerdam still makes his full-time home in Europe when he's not playing for the Seattle Sounders. When the school schedule in the Netherlands lined up for his wife and two young children to join him in Washington state for the start of the MLS season last month, Leerdam jumped at the opportunity to bring his family here.

They made it before the COVID-19 pandemic overtook much of the world, making travel a major challenge.

"They were supposed to come here

and have a good time," Leerdam said. "Then everything changed."

No other top-flight league in the world has the same geographic diversity as MLS, which had 74 different nationalities represented at the start of the 2020 season, according to data from Sports Reference. The Premier League had 63 nationalities represented among its players for the 2019-20 season. Same for the Bundesliga. Serie A in Italy had 65. La Liga in Spain had 52.

The diversity has been good for MLS, but now it has also been a source of emotional and mental strain during the pandemic, which shut the season down in early March after only two weeks. Foreign players and coaches were subsequently stuck in North America, and while in many cases they have their spouses and children with them, they are often separated

from other family and loved ones spread around the world.

"We're constantly communicating with them (players). And if there's something they might need, we will work very hard to provide it," said Portland Timbers coach Giovanni Savarese, who has extended family in Italy. "These are times that are very difficult. Our generation has not gone through this type of situation, so every day we have a new challenge. The good thing is that everyone is in constant communication to make sure that we always know if someone is in need of something."

MLS has extended its training moratoriums on several occasions, the latest until May 15. The earliest the league will return to action is June 8. Players have been receiving their regular pay, but there have been conversations about salary reductions.



Elaine Thompson/AP

Seattle Sounders defender Kelvin Leerdam, right, makes his full-time home in Europe when he's not playing for the Seattle Sounders. Leerdam, his wife and two young children made the trip to Seattle before COVID-19 made international travel difficult.

## MLB/NHL



PHOTOS BY JULIO CORTES (ABOVE) AND MARK J. TERRILL (BELOW)/AP

Houston Astros pitcher Justin Verlander, above, would earn \$203,704 each time his team plays if the pandemic-delayed season gets under way. Below, Los Angeles outfielder Mike Trout would earn \$222,222 for each one of his team's games. According to analysis by the Associated Press, 65 players would earn at least \$100,000 each time their team wins or loses.

## Report: 65 players will earn at least \$100,000 each game

BY RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Trout and Gerrit Cole aren't the only major leaguers with a big financial incentive to get back on the field.

While they head a starry quartet that would take in more than \$200,000 per game, 65 players would earn at least \$100,000 each time their team wins or loses if the pandemic-delayed major league season get under way, according to an analysis of their contracts by The Associated Press.

Most rookies and those making the minimum would get nearly \$3,500 each. Every game added to the big league schedule earns players about \$24 million in aggregate.

Clubs would benefit, too, with huge revenue streams flowing from regional sports networks and national broadcast contracts. A contentious negotiation is likely if Major League Baseball asks the players' association to accept salary cuts to compensate for competing in empty ballparks.

"I would need to be fully informed about revenue and things like that before I would decide if I think it's fair for us to do that," Washington first baseman Ryan Zimmerman said. "I know the owners make a lot of money. ... We're in such a unique situation. People want to play. People want to get back on the field."

"If there ever was a time where two sides had been obviously argued in the past could get along and get things done, now would be the time," he added. "That being said, I'm not going to sit here and say the players would be willing to do that. I don't even know if I would be willing to do that."

Zimmerman, 35 and closer to the end of his career than the beginning, has a \$2 million salary and would get \$12,346 per game.

Trout, the 28-year-old Los Angeles Angels star who has won three AL MVP awards, has a \$36 mil-

**'If there ever was a time where two sides that have obviously argued in the past could get along and get things done, now would be the time.'**

Ryan Zimmerman  
Nationals  
first baseman



lion salary. He is tied for the major league high with Cole, the 29-year-old right-hander who left Houston as a free agent to sign with the New York Yankees. That works out to \$222,222 for each game of the 162-game season.

Colorado third baseman Nolan Arenado is third at \$216,049 per game, followed by Houston right-hander Justin Verlander at \$203,704. Next is left-hander David Price, acquired by the Los Angeles Dodgers from Boston in February, at \$197,531.

Lower down the salary scale, 392 of the approximately 900 players on active rosters and injured lists earn at least \$10,000 a game, including 300 at \$20,000 or more, 259 at \$25,000 or more, 161 at \$50,000 or higher and 100 at \$75,000 or above.

Opening day was scheduled for March 26, but has been delayed indefinitely due to the new coronavirus pandemic. Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said he is confident the 2020 season will start at some point, and MLB and the union have discussed possibilities that include playing in empty ballparks and neutral sites.

As part of a March deal between MLB and the union, players gained a key objective in bargaining: If no games are played, each player would get the same amount of service time this year as he earned in 2019. As part of the deal, teams are advancing \$170 million in salary but players give up claims to any more if the season is scrapped. That leaves each player to earn a maximum \$260,000, \$60,000, \$30,000 or \$16,500, depending on his contract, if there is a missed season.

Players agreed to prorate their salaries based on actual games played.

## Season on ice, Flyers say they were contenders

BY DAN GELSTON  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Gritty is the home school teacher the world needs right now. The furry Flyers mascot offers an education of sorts each weekday on Instagram with "Gritty's ¼-Hour of Power," and his top student one day this week was forward Joel Farabee.

Gritty played charades with Farabee and the muted mascot held up signs for his pupil to read on the subject of bees. Example: "In Ancient Egypt, people paid their taxes with honey."

But would extra honey count against the salary cap?

Farabee and the Flyers may have been brushing up on a second-round postseason scouting report instead of getting a science lesson this week had the season not been suspended because of the coronavirus pandemic. The Flyers were the toast of the NHL in early March — they were happy to raise a glass to their prosperity — because of a hot streak that turned them into a postseason threat.

Just how far the Flyers could have gone may never be known — though a proposed plan involves bringing teams back in a few empty NHL buildings to complete some, if not all, of the remaining regular-season games before opening the playoffs — so the slim chance remains they can pick up where they left off March 12, at 89 points (41-21-7) and rising.

Good health and momentum can be tricky to rediscover after a lengthy layoff and there's no promise better days would be ahead for the Flyers, or any other team, should the season potentially resume in July.

"There's no doubt that we were playing our best hockey of the season at the time," coach Alain Vigneault said. "It will be all our jobs, from coaches to management to players, to get back to that good spot that we were in."

Vigneault made all the right moves for the Flyers in his first season on the bench, leading them on a nine-game winning streak that ended in a 2-0 loss to the Boston Bruins on March 10, their last game of the suspended season. Carter Hart, just 21, played every bit like the franchise goalie the Flyers expected. And homegrown talent such as Scott Laughton, Travis Sanheim, Ivan Provorov and Travis Konecny — drafted amid a franchise rebuild — all turned a team with modest expectations into an Eastern Conference contender.

The Flyers scored an average of 4.33 goals per game and allowed an average of 1.89 dur-



CHRIS SZAGOLA/AP

Philadelphia Flyers head coach Alain Vigneault said his team was playing its best hockey of the season when the season was suspended. He said he thinks the Flyers can regain that focus when the season returns.

ing their nine-game streak and hadn't lost consecutive games since an 0-3-1 stretch from Dec. 31-Jan. 4. The Flyers are 39-0-3 this season when they are tied or leading after two periods.

"Once we get back at it, I'm very confident with the focus of our group that we'll be at the same page as everybody else and it's going to be our job to work hard, work smart and do the right thing and get back to where we were," Vigneault said.

Vigneault has seen and heard the effects the COVID-19 disease has on his loved ones. His girlfriend, Monica Cotton, is an emergency nurse at Ottawa Hospital and his sister Nicole Vigneault works for Quebec Health.

The Flyers coach, though, has been helpless like so many others when it comes to communication and contact with senior parents.

"My parents are 84 and 86. They are both in a senior residence. They've both been isolated since Day One," Vigneault said. "My mom's having a little bit more of a challenging time there mentally in the past few months. My dad is still sharp as he can be. There's no doubt him going through this by himself, he's very lonely."

Vigneault said he's talked to only five Flyers since the season ended and leaves Chris Osmond and Dan Warneke, the team's strength and conditioning coaches, to keep tabs on the roster.

"Everybody is trying to stay safe. At the same time, when the season starts again, we want to be as ready as we can," Vigneault said.

## NFL



JEFFREY M. BOAN/AP

Former Miami Dolphins head coach Don Shula waves to the crowd during a 2009 halftime ceremony. He won a league-record 347 games and coached in six Super Bowls, winning two, including an unbeaten season in 1972. He passed away Monday at 90.

# Shula, winningest coach in pro football, dies at 90

Hall of Fame coach won two Super Bowls, including 17-0 1972 Dolphins

BY STEVEN WINE

Associated Press

MIAMI — Don Shula, who won the most games of any NFL coach and led the Miami Dolphins to the only perfect season in league history, died Monday at his home, the team said. He was 90.

Shula surpassed George Halas' league-record 324 victories in 1993. He retired following the 1995 season with 347 wins, 173 losses and six ties, and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1997.

"Don Shula was the patriarch of the Miami Dolphins for 50 years," the Dolphins said in a statement. "He brought the winning edge to our franchise and put the Dolphins and the city of Miami in the national sports scene."

Shula became the only coach to guide an NFL team through a perfect season when the 1972 Dolphins went 17-0. They won the Super Bowl again the following season, finishing 15-2.

The 2007 Patriots came close to matching the achievement by the '72 Dolphins, winning their first 18 games before losing in the Super Bowl to the New York Giants.

Shula appeared in six Super Bowls and reached the playoffs in four decades. He coached three Hall of Fame quarterbacks: Johnny Unitas, Bob Griese and Dan Marino.

## NFL moves international games back to US

Associated Press

The NFL is moving its five games scheduled for London and Mexico City this season back to U.S. stadiums because of the coronavirus pandemic. All five regular-season games will be played at the stadiums of the host teams.

Scheduled were two home games for the Jacksonville Jag-

uars at Wembley Stadium in London and two at Tottenham's new facility, with the Atlanta Falcons and Miami Dolphins as hosts. The Arizona Cardinals were to be the home team for the game at Azteca Stadium in Mexico City.

The NFL said in a statement Monday that "in order for the entire season to be played in NFL teams' stadia under consistent protocols focused on the

During his 26 seasons in Miami, Shula became an institution and looked the part, with a jutting jaw and glare that intimidated 150-pound sports writers and 300-pound linemen alike. His name adorns an expressway, an athletic club and a steakhouse chain.

Shula's only losing seasons came in 1976 and 1988, but he drew increasing criticism from fans and the media in his final years and retired in January 1996, with Jimmy Johnson replacing him.

Before his 1970s triumphs with Miami, Shula had a reputation as a coach who thrived during the regular season but couldn't win the big games.

Shula became the youngest head coach in NFL history when the Baltimore Colts hired him in 1963 at age 33. The Colts finished 12-2 the following season and were widely seen as the league's dominant team.

But they lost 27-0 to Cleveland in the title game, and for the next few years they continued to come up short.

The humiliation was greatest in the Super Bowl to end the 1968 season. The Colts steamrolled through the NFL, finishing 13-1. After crushing the Browns 34-0 in the title game, they lost 16-7 to the upstart New York Jets, the AFL champion, in the Super Bowl. The result is still regarded by many as the biggest upset in pro football history.

well-being of players, personnel and fans ... Commissioner Roger Goodell made this decision after consultation with our clubs, national and local governments, the NFL Players Association, medical authorities and international stadium partners."

The NFL has staged regular-season games in London every year since 2007.

# On edge: Seattle seeking to solve pass rush woes

By TIM BOOTH

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Darrell Taylor may not realize it yet, but his arrival in Seattle comes with a certain level of expectations.

In previous drafts, whenever general manager John Schneider made an aggressive move to trade up in the second or third rounds, it's turned out to be a smart move. Tyler Lockett, Jarran Reed, DK Metcalf were the three previous picks Seattle made after trading up on the second day.

Taylor became the latest to fall into that category when Seattle jumped last week to select the Tennessee pass rusher in the second round. He was one of two defensive ends taken by Seattle, along with fifth-round pick Alton Robinson out of Syracuse.

Coupled with the free agent signings of Bruce Irvin and Benson Mayowa, the four edge rushers represent Seattle's efforts this offseason to solve its biggest issue from a year ago when getting pressure on the quarterback was a major problem.

But are the four new additions enough to help the Seahawks or are there more moves still needed in order to adequately bolster the position?

"We really did look at the issue of we weren't happy with the production of our pressure that we put on last year and so we went after it," coach Pete Carroll said. "Every move that we've made has addressed that and I think that we have the depth that can really help us keep guys fast and fresh and get a really good rotation going."

There's good reason Carroll and his staff were displeased with the pass rush a year ago.

Seattle was next-to-last in the NFL last season with 28 sacks. Raheem Green led the team with four.

Their overall QB pressure rate of 19.3% was 28th in the league, according to Pro Football Reference. After Jadeveon Clowney was injured midseason and played the latter half of the year with a core muscle injury, the pass rush became even more spotty. And the lack of pressure led to other defensive problems, particularly defending the pass.

Addressing the position had to be a priority and in Seattle's mind, the mix of two rookies and two vets might be enough. All four fit the prototype for the LEO position in Seattle's defense as an edge rusher, although Irvin has experience from his previous time in Seattle as both a pass rusher and an outside linebacker playing on the line of scrimmage.

Irvin and Mayowa had 15½ sacks last season combined with Carolina and Oakland.

Seahawks officials believe that



PHOTOS BY WADE PAYNE, TOP, AND MICHAEL CONROY, ABOVE/AP

Tennessee linebacker Darrell Taylor, top, picked in the second round by the Seattle Seahawks, was one of two defensive ends taken by the team in the draft, along with fifth-round pick Alton Robinson of Syracuse, above.

if not for a stress fracture that required surgery after the season, Taylor could have been a first-round pick. Taylor didn't work out at the NFL combine. Seattle was one of the few teams he was able to visit.

"It's exciting because they traded up to get me so that means they must've really wanted me and I think I can't thank them enough for it," Taylor said. "I'm just ready to get to work. I'm excited they picked me to be their pass rusher."

The Seahawks felt fortunate Robinson was still available in the fifth round. After a stellar junior season during which Robinson had 10 sacks for Syracuse, he regressed as a senior and finished with just 4½ sacks in 12 games.

Getting Robinson with the 148th pick felt like a steal for the Seahawks.

"He's got the ability and the production to do stuff like guys that were picked quite a bit higher," Carroll said. "We were fortunate to get that done."



# SPORTS

NFL

## Don Shula



January 4, 1930 — May 4, 2020

Page 23

### TO OUR READERS

As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.

